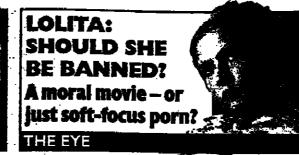
THE OSCAR **NIGHT FASHION VICTIMS** Award winners, but losers in style FEATURES, PAGE

WHAT'S WRONG WITH RADIO 12 The station that can't seem to please anyone



IS IT SAFE TO EAT YOUR **GREENS?** The perils that lurk on the veg counter EATURES, PAGE 17



BLAIRIA Newspaper of the Year for photographs

klay 25 March 1996 45p (IR50p) No 3,567

Party leaders unite to condemn racism in Britain

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PARTY leaders last night united in nity meeting. an attack on the scourge of racism after The Independent urged them to the fundamental principle of racial join forces with Tony Blair to cele-equality was shared by every single racism and a desire to protect local of faith in Southwark last week, he brate the multi-culturalism of Britain. mainstream party, which explained Their unity is a direct response to "why we can be optimistic about the deep-seated concerns over racism future of race relations." and underlines a growing determi-

nation to tackle it head-on.

wark, south London, for a commu-

But The Independent believes that racism is endemic, and that it Government worries over racism cannot be answered by silence - it

Prime Minister's Question Time; and which is why The Independent has

the death of Stephen Lawrence was On both occasions, Mr Blair said told by Michael Mansfield QC, counsel for the Lawrence family, that vestigation was flawed from the mosouth London bus stop in 1993.

is strong, even in cities believed to that we believe in, and actually welsurfaced twice last week: once in needs to be confronted and taken on, be well-integrated, like Liverpool. come a multi-racial and multi-cul-

In a speech to Asian business tural society: that it's a good thing; again when Mr Blair went to South- asked party leaders to speak out. leaders in London tonight, the Prime The first day of the inquiry into Minister will say that much has

> Delivering a powerful statement white youths meant the police in- said: "The single most important ment Stephen was stabbed at a solutely clear statement of behalf of the Government, on behalf of all po-On the ground evidence of racism litical parties, on behalf of society,

that it's not something to be frightened of; that it's a healthy, life-givbeen done to stamp out racism, but ing thing; that it's actually the type more is needed. of society we want to bring our chil-

dren up in." William Hague said last night: "I warmly welcome The Independent's campaign to promote good race relatious. The United Kingdom has set an example to the rest of the world in improving race relations, but we

should never be complacent. "More needs to be done to bring complacent. Britain draws strength

down the barriers of ignorance and from diversity. The enormous varidistrust which still exist in parts of our society. Good race relations depend on tough but fair immigration policy and firm action to cradicate the scourge of racism."

Paddy Ashdown said: "Racism is an evil which undermines the very leader, said: "We abbor racism in all fabric of society. As a nation we have come a long way in recent years in tackling intolerance and bigotry, but there is still much to do and we must not allow ourselves to become

ety of people of different cultures, religions and races who make up our society make Britain a wonderfully exciting, vibrant and cosmopolitan place to live."

Dafydd Wigley, the Plaid Cymru its various guises and will work with others from all democratic political parties, in Wales and throughout the UK, to defeat it at all times."

Lawrence blunders, page 10 Liverpool apartheid, page 10

Ports warned of Iraqi plot months ago

the county statistics. By Jason Bennetto and David Usborne

> BRITISH intelligence has issued airports in the past few months about the dangers of Iraqi agents smugging in a variety of biological and chemical weap-

> ons, it emerged yesterday. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, also disclosed that a warning that Saddam Hussein could be planning to flood the West with anthrax hidden in botties disguised as duty-free goods was received 13 days before the Government alerted the ports.

In a further development, an Iraqi scientist who may have tipped off Western intelligence agencies about the anthrax threat and who was planning to defect is reported to have been arrested and thrown into prison.

MI5 alerted Customs and Excise officers and Special Branch police at British ports on a number of occasions this year following intelligence suggesting Iraq may be planning biological or chemical attacks.

While the most recent report told ports to be on the look out for anthrax, information about other named substances has been released. Iraq is known to have reserves of Agent VX, a highly toxic nerve agent used against the Kurds, mustard gas, which cause terrible skin damage, and sarin, the nerve agent used in Nazi gas chambers, aflatoxin. which destroys the immune system; and bouilinum toxin.

A security source said the anthrax alert was "one of a number of warnings about the possible threat from Iraqi biological and chemical weapons" that had

and Eurostar.

there was no intelligence to sug- not recently. gest that Britain was to be specifically targeted. The anthrax alert said the threat was

Meanwhile, an official with UNSCOM, the UN body charged with rooting out Iraq's clandestine weapons programmes, confirmed yesterday



of Nassir al-Hindawi by the Iraci government earlier this month.

According to Baghdad, Mr Hindawi was found to be preparing his own flight from Iraq and had important documents about the biological weapons programme, which he intended handing over to western investigators. Mr Hindawi is considered to

have been one of the key pioneers of Iraq's biological campaign. Anthrax would have of the threat. been one of the agents Hindawi into production for Baghdad. cific threat to the UK."

been issued to the authorities - Ewen Buchanan, the UNguarding ports and airports, SCOM spokesman, confirmed including the Channel Tunnel, that Hindawi has been interviewed repeatedly by UN-The source stressed that SCOM investigators, though

Underplaying the importance of Hindawi, Mr Buchanan said he "was not involved in the production phase" and added against "the enemies of Iraq". that UNSCOM has interviewed "hundreds of other people", besides Hindawi

> Other experts, however, suggested that had he successfully defected, Hindawi could have been crucial to UNSCOM's efforts to reveal the truth about Iraq's biological ambitions.

Confirmation yesterday by Mr Straw that a number of "all ports" alerts had been made since the tension in the Gulf, fuelled suspicions among Labour MPs opposed to war against Iraq that the latest reports are part of a conspiracy to wreck the peace deal brokered with Saddam by the Secretary General of the UN, Kofi Annan

"I am extremely suspicious that this is an attempt to destabilise the agreement over the that it was informed of the arrest ceasefire when it seems to be working rather well. It seems to be the action of somebody who

wants to fight," said Tam Dalyell, the veteran Labour campaigner. In a statement to the Commons, Mr Straw said the latest intelligence report of the anthrax threat reached the Government on 6 March, two weeks before the "all ports" alert was issued. Home Office sources said the delay was caused by the need to assess the seriousness

Mr Straw told MPs: "Our inwould have been trying to put formation is that there is no spe-

prayer for the dying: Gere meets Tibetan hunger-strikers



Actor Richard Gere meets one of six Tibetans who are taking part in a 'fast-unto-death' meant to pressure the United Nations into reopening its debate on the future of their country. Gere, a convert to Buddhism, is a strong supporter of Tibetan independence. Report, page 15

Labour deserts 'seedy' Blackpool for the soft life in chablis-on-sea

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Labour's old left has put up with a lot recently, but surely the brothers will never stand for this. The men from Millbank have ended 70 years of tradition

In a move which will enshrine Labour as the party of than beer and battered cod, it long-booked trip to the North will meet on the south coast. mer heartland, ending a cherished tradition of infighting and politicking along the prom,

joys Blackpool has to offer. reluctance" and he hoped del-The party says the town is too egates would return to Blackexpensive to get to, its wildly rococo Winter Gardens conference centre too cramped

and its hotels too seedy.

Fans of the resort will argue that its famously fierce landby dumping Blackpool from ladies and over-the-top enter- of the hall itself. We felt there the annual conference circuit. tainment are part of the was a lack of space at Blackpool. package. But now Labour's National Executive Committee Chablis and seafood rather has decided that after one last, this autumn, the gathering will bundreds of miles from its for- be held in Bournemouth next year, followed by two years running in Brighton.

accompanied by all the tacky decision was taken with "great move.

pool once its problems had been solved. The conference was first held there in 1927, and the party has returned every sec-

ond year since 1976. "One factor was the quality It also costs more to go to Blackpool for transport and staffing. There was also some concern at the quality of the hotels and rates that the hotels

charge," the spokesman said.

Predictably, Dennis Skinner, the left-wing Labour MP A party spokesman said the for Bolsover, voted against the

"The new model's a belter!" THE SUN QUALITY IS A RIGHT

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THE NEW ASTRA 🏖 VAUXHALL

Ex-boyfriend named as killer in civil case

By Kate Watson-Smyth

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All Hills

The former boyfriend of the murdered doctor Joan Francisco was yesterday named as her killer in a unique High Court action. Her family alleged that Tony Diedrick stalked the 27-year-old gynaecologist for months out of a "violent and strangling her with a vacuumcleaner cord at her flat in St Mohn's Wood, London, on Boxing Day 1994.

Diedrick, 38, was arrested in March 1995 but released without charge. The Crown Prosecution Service later decided there was not enough evidence

Yesterday there were gasps from Dr Francisco's mother, Venus, and sisters Celia and Margrette as Mr Justice Alliott said he had found for the family. Diedrick, from Maida Hill, west London, was not in court perverted obsession" before and did not give evidence dur-

ing the case. It is thought to be the first civil action against someone when there has been no criminal prosecution connected to a and stalked her home. He was the deceased, I deem it incredmurder. The family are seeking desperate to speak to her, as he ible he would not seize the op-£50,000 compensation for al-

leged assault and battery. The for the US for good or for a long innocence rather than shelter stacles ... We feel the road to vate hearing later.

Margrette Francisco said the CPS would be "strongly situation. Diedrick had no aliurged" to charge Diedrick. The family's solicitor, Taz Raza, said that if the it did not act and to challenge that decision would be sought in the High Court.

Mr Justice Alliott said the family had established certain from the defendant's failure to facts, including that Diedrick give evidence. was obsessed by Dr Francisco

fore I have no hesitation in

"If the defendant did not kill

damages will be decided at a pri- time and that he had demon- behind a perceived tactical adstrated violence in the past vantage." Mr Justice Alliott to us." The Metropolitan Police when faced with a comparable said Diedrick probably had no said they were considering the premeditated intent to kill when bi for the relevant period he entered the flat. "But I am dict had any implications for the 8.50am to 9.40am on the day of satisfied he first struck and the murder. "I consider that then strangled the deceased by bring charges, a judicial review those factors make out a very hand and ligature. This is a strong prima facie case. There- dreadful judgment to have to pass on any man ... but I find drawing an adverse inference the assault and battery alleged, in effect the murder, to have been proved."

Margrette Francisco, speaking for the family, said: "It has been ... a very long and difficult believed she was about to leave portunity to declare his struggle, fraught with many ob-

justice has finally been opened police investigation. Solicitors for Diedrick, who also offered to pay the costs of the case, said they would appeal.

Fatal attraction, page 7



INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P10 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P11, 12 • FULL CONTENTS, P2

Stormont parties mired in detail

By David McKittrick heland Correspondent

THE multi-party talks at Stormont vesterday became bogged down in ancillary details threatening the Government's hopes of a dash for agreement by the Easter deadline.

Ulster Unionist moves to resurrect the vexed issue of paramilitary arms de-commissioning, and to concentrate on the question of possible IRA involvement in recent violence. meant that the focus was on security rather than on political matters.

The delay has placed into deeper question the Government's ambition of finding agreement among the parties for a new political settlement hefore Good Friday - 10 April.

The Unionist party yesterday came close to accusing the authorities of covering up IRA involvement in recent bombings and shootings. Ken Maginnis MP declared: "We believe that ness of demonstrating to its supthere is a dissembling of the porters that it is setting the facts and we really have to get to the bottom of this."

Party members last night met the RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan to hear his security assessment. Party members earlier claimed that Mr Flanagan had told Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, that he believed the IRA was engaged in recent violence. Ms Mowlam, however, has indicated that she has received no such in-

formation from Mr Flanagan. Security sources say that recent republican violence has been mostly the work of the the day they will find an alter-

Council. They add that Unionist politicians are wrong in their claims that the CAC operates with the consent of the IRA.

There have, however, been incidents in which at least some IRA members have been involved. A recent killing in Co Armagh is attributed by the authorities to "elements of the IRA", but they add that it is unclear whether the shooting was sanctioned by the IRA's leadership. There are further suspicions that a recent mortar attack, carried out by the CAC. may have been aided by "dissidents within the IRA".

The Unionist party's ambition appears to be to build a case against the IRA which would result in the expulsion of Sinn Fein from the talks process.

At the Unionist party's request, talks participants yesterday assembled for a plenary session which some sources described as tense. The party also appears to be in the busiagenda in the proceedings.

Earlier, the Irish foreign minister David Andrews sought to calm growing unease among the grassroots of his Fianna Fail party over proposed changes to the Republic's territorial claim over Northern Ireland. He said he believed alter-

ations to Articles Two and Three of the Republic's constitution would be accepted as part of a peace settlement in Northern Ireland. Mr Andrews added: "Articles Two and Three have enormous and deep meaning to my party ... I think at the end of



Anthrax poison threat

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

ANTHRAX is not a biological weapon of mass destruction killing everyone who has contact with it. That dubious honour belongs to the nerve gas, Sarin. It is, however, a lethal poison. Like other poisons, whether it kills depends on the dose absorbed and the strength of the victim's immunity.

It has been estimated that a small plane carrying 10kg of an-thrax spores - which could theoretically be disguised as a crate of duty free - would be enough to kill three million people if sprayed over a city. Its effect would depend, however, on weather and windspeed, the general health of the target population and the availability of antibiotics to fight the infection. It could be placed in drinks or food but this would kill

Basra he deserted from the

Iraqi army in 1991 in the wake

of the uptisings in the south of

Iraq for which President George Bush had called. He

went briefly to Iran but then

joined the Iraqi National Con-

gress, an umbrella group for op-

ponents of the government in

Baghdad, and set up a network

portant to the opposition that

Iraqi security tried to poison

him two years later. But on re-

covering after being treated in

Britain, Mr Battat went back to

Kurdistan, becoming one of

the leaders of the resistance.

When Iraqi tanks entered the

area in August, 1996 he fled

again, this time to the US where

FBI agents decided that he

posed a danger to security, put

in southern Iraq.

TOMORROW

Forget the office-now you're in a flexible working zone

Exam tips: How to get a First class degree

Happy birthday Channel 5. Will there be another one?



CONTENTS

Features

Unit trusts Crosswords 32 & The Eye 10 TV & radio The Eye, II,I2



FBI tries to deport guerrilla to Iraq

First Iraqi agents tried to poison him with thallium, a slow acting rat poison. Then the Federal Bureau of Investigation put him in jail as a danger to the security of the United States and are trying to deport him back to Iraq, where he faces execution.

Safa al-Battat, 33, a veteran guerrilla leader against the army in the marshes of southern Iraq, now bas unique and painful experience of the Iraqi and US security methods. Cured of the results of taking thallium in a jar of yogurt at a party in Iraqí Kurdistan, he is trained FBI agents try to understand his role in the complex politics of Iraq.



Safa al-Battat: Cured after taking thallium at a party

the end of 1996 to escape Iraqi in jail in California while ill- tanks which had just rolled up the Central Intelligence Agency's operation in northern Iraq, in the agency's worst de-He is one of 600 members of feat since the Bay of Pigs. Now the Iraqi opposition airlifted Mr Battat is one of six Iraqis facbreakaway Continuity Army native amendment acceptable." from Kurdistan by the CIA at ing expulsion from the US to and believed Mr Hawlery be- is difficult to match. Born in return him to Iraq.

Iraq because the FBI decided he might be a double agent.

The court hearings are largely secret but The Independent has obtained a memorandum describing the three-day hearing against another Iraqi, Hashim Qadir Hawlery, held for the same reason. It reveals that Jennifer Rettig, an FBI special agent who originally interviewed him, believed he was a member of a secret organisation called "KLM".

Mr Hawlery, who had been a member of the Iraqi opposition for 30 years, was confused about why he was accused of belonging to a Dutch airline. Only after a military interpreter was called to the stand did it emerge that Ms Rettig, who had received a short briefing on Iraq, had heard the translator use the term "Kurdish liberation movement"

tat and five other Iraqis were handed down by the immigration court judge, who decided that the defendants could not be told the

evidence against them. Their

lawyers are still considering an

appeal and have been joined by

Expulsion orders on Mr Bat-

longed to a powerful organisa-

tion with the initials KLM.

James Woolsey, the first director of the CIA under President Bill Clinton, who now works for Washington law firm. It is a strange fate for Mr Battat, who has spent a year in jail. In London, Ghanim Jawad, another long-time opponent of the Iraqi regime, says he is one of the finest of those who fought against the Iraqi regime. He blames the

and imaginary agents. Mr Battat's record of activism against Saddam Hussein him in jail and now propose to

CIA for looking for scapegoats

MICHAEL HANLON

WISE

WEATHER

NICENESS is a hard quantity to measure when it comes to the weather. It is easy to quantify in terms of wind speed, temperature, pressure and so on, but is it possible to scientifically describe the weather in terms of human comfort?

Approximately-speaking, es. In 1963, the climatologist Victor Olgyay came up with the idea of a "comfort chart", plotting limits for various activities by "inhabitants of temperate climatic zones" in relation to temperature and humidity.

Interestingly, humidity turns chart, the line marking the runs from more than 50C - and the patients all died.

(122F) at 20 per cent humidity, to 33C (91F) when the humidity exceeds 90 per cent.

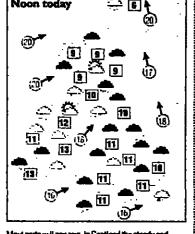
That is why dry desert heat is much more bearable than the stifling fug of an equatorial forest, even though the temperatures in the forest may be 20C below those in the desert. In bone dry air, provided you keep out of the sun. work of moderate intensity" is possible at more than 43C (109F). At 95+ per cent humidity, even 24C (75F) is enough to make anyone down

tools in a torrent of sweat. As the mercury plummets, humidity has less of an effect on comfort, though a combination of high moisture content and low temperatures can be harmful. Just how harmful was discovered in a disastrous experiment in the 1880s, when a tuberculosis sanatorium was constructed underground in Mammoth Cave in Kentucky.

The idea was that the conout to be as important, if not stant chill (10C) and high more so, than temperature in humidity in the cave would prodefining comfort. On Olgyay's vide the ideal environment for the sickly patients. In fact, it high-temperature boundary of an "impossible environment" true - bot, dry air is required true - hot, dry air is required

Noon today

WEATHER



Most parts will see rain, in Scotland then have directle with the east bright surshine appearing. Northern freta cloudy with a little morning draztle to eastwards with most parts having a drier but mostly cloudy alternoon, but the rain will hand on in southeast England and western coasts will see some drazk

Outlook for the next few days Thursday will be cooler and breezy across the UK with a medure of sunstane and blustery showers, the bulk of the showers in the north-west. Friday will see rain race pastwards across the UK, clearing in the north later to blustery showers and some suretime. Saturday will become more settlerlatter early rain clears southern cents with more in the way of sunshine and most parts.

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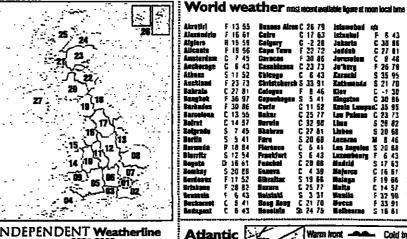
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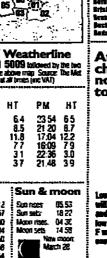
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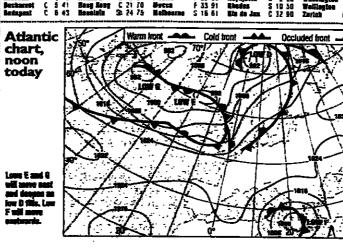
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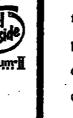
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Children's vaccine is safe, say experts

By Jeremy Laurance

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A GROUP of 37 scientific experts has concluded that the combined MMR vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella is safe after reviewing all the evidence linking it with bowel disease and autism.

There was no evidence to mdicate any link between the vaccine and the disorders and there was no reason to change the current policy of giving MMR vaccination to children in the second year of life, the experts agreed at a meeting organised by the Medical Re-

The MRC assembled the experts from across the country for the special closed meeting on Monday at the request of the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, Sir Kenneth asked for the meeting, whose findings were released yesterday, after research published last month in the Lancet, suggesting a possible link between the vaccine and the diseases, led to a sharp fall in mothers coming forward to

have their children vaccinated. The chief author of the Lances paper, Dr Andrew Wakefield, of the Royal Free years without at least one vac-Hospital, attended the MRC meeting and presented the results from his published and unpublished research. Although the paper, signed by 12 co-authors, had said that no causal link between MMR vaccine and howel disease and antism had been established, Dr Wakefield told a press conference. shop and there was certainly not called to publicise the paper at sufficient time to properly look the time that in his opinion the at the issue. We are calling on three component vaccines the Government to hold a prop-. I should be given separately to re-er open forum where experts

immune system. Reports of his remarks triggered widespread alarm among parents and supplies of the separate vaccines were quickly exhausted.

Dr Wakefield was unavailable for comment yesterday. A statement from the Royal Free medical school said it agreed that the policy on MMR vaccination should not be altered.

Sir John Pattison, the eminent microbiologist and government adviser on BSE and CJD, who chaired the meeting, said the benefits of MMR vaccination far outweighed the risks and there was no medical justification for giving the vac-cines separately. "Children of that age are getting infection after infection. That is part of their development. What is the evidence that |giving the MMR vaccines together) is a bad thing to do? There isn't any."

At a later press conference yesterday, Sir Kenneth said the fall in vaccination rates following the Lancet paper was a "very serious issue" but he ruled out making the three vaccines available to parents who requested them. That would mean children having three injections instead of one and exposed them to the risk of going for two cine during a critical period.

Jabs, the organisation representing parents who believe their children have been damaged by vaccination, criticised the findings. Jackie Fletcher, the group's spokeswoman, said: We're concerned that this seminar was just a one-day work-



Fight for green: Above, 'Justin' defending a tunnel at the poplar tree protest in Kingston, Surrey. Below, police remove an eco-warrior Photographs: Gretel Ensignia/Andy Blackmore

Madness as developer improves the view

By Chris Blackhurst

IT WAS not the promised airraid siren that woke us up yesterday morning, but the incessant whire of a police helicopter.

The eco-protesters down the road from our house in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, promised that when the bailiffs came to evict them we would be roused by a klaxon. In the end, it was the drone of a police surveillance unit, just hovering and watching, that shattered our tranquillity.

All winter, along with our neighbours we have given money and signed petition forms in support of the ecowarriors trying to stop the felling of 56 poplar trees in a public park adjoining the River Thames.

The issue was simple: Fair-

land behind the trees; in order to sell them as having "river views", down the trees had to come. The local council, in a fit of madness, agreed; and down they must come.

These are trees in Canbury Gardens, a quiet, peaceful stretch of river bank close to Kingston town centre. My children play there. Stand in my road and look towards the river and the trees are there, where they have stood since. anyone can remember, a splash of nature amid an encroaching urban landscape. Not for much longer.

Yesterday, at an estimated cost to the local council of £500,000, a huge police and security operation swung into force. Its target was our heroes. people who have made us feel embarrassed and more than a little ashamed these past few clough Homes had built luxu- months; who, while we cosied

were prepared to camp out, to live in tree houses, to dig tun-

nels, to save our poplars. Not their trees, notice most of the protesters are not from Kingston, but are veterans of similar campaigns at Newbury and Manchester Air-

ferent: those efforts were about stopping a road and a runway, which at least would be used by everyone; this is about saving some trees so that some well-

off people can have a better The madness that has gripped elsewhere yesterday

descended on our own patch of suburbia. At first light, a flotilla of police and security guards in rubber dinghies sailed up the Thames and landed on the area where my five-year-old likes to play

Joined by back-up support "120 police and 140 private security", said Kingston undersheriff John Hargrove, in charge of the operation, proudly - they erected security fencing all around. The public river walk was cordoned off, nobody could get near the trees.

Then they started the slow. laborious ritual of hauling the protesters out, one by one. In all, seven people were arrested. More, surely, will follow, as they begin the serious task of clearing the tunnels and bring in the "cherry-pickers" to get them down from the trees.

These events have their own

rhythm and strange, twisted language. Everything was being done for our "safety" and the safety of the protesters, we were told. They kept saying it over and over again. But we were not consulted. Nobody asked us what we thought about the trees; nobody listened when thousands of local people signed a petition asking they be saved; nobody wondered if we minded paying for yesterday's

insanity. Behind the guards with eyes too close together who looked as though they had been bussed in for the two or three days of the clear up, stood a security man brandishing a video camera.

When asked what he was doing, he said he was filming because they liked to learn from each protest, to get it right: next time.

And there will be next times for our own safety, of course.

Pop star takes the ultimate rap for a life of living dangerously

IN THE **NEWS**

MARK **MORRISON**

POP stars very, very rarely go to jail. For all the bravado, antiestablishment stances, drugs, under-age sex and demolition of hotel rooms, their behaviour usually falls short of a custodial sentence, writes David Lister, Arts News Editor.

On the few occasions it has happened, good lawyers and public sympathy have usually managed to curtail the extent of the stay inside. The legendary imprisonment of Mick Jagger in the Sixties in fact lasted no more than 48 hours.

Yesterday though, the rap star Mark Morrison was sent down: And for a year. But for Morrison public sympathy is likely to be limited. The case that led to his imprisonment may have had an almost comic element to it. He sent an imposter to do community service for him while he went on tour. But the original crime of affray for which he received the community service involved a violent brawl in which a man was

The self-styled "baddest boy of pop", Morrison's recent history is littered with crime and violence. The 1995 number one hit "Return Of The Mack" for which he is best known appears to have been the catalyst that drove him into lawlessness according to his lawyer, David

the order of the court."

JUDGE CHRISTOPHER PITCHERS

"It is quite clear that having found the order inconvenient you decided to use

the power your position gave you to

avoid doing any more of it, I regard it. THE STAGE ACT

avoid doing any more accommend for He brandished handcoff blacked by female as showing an arrogant contempt for He brandished handcoff blacked WPCs. At a the order of the court."



Going down: 'Some people can cope and some people cannot. Mark Morrison was one of those who cannot

reached the pinnacle he has fallen very

now lives in west London, "had_ shot into prominence very

He had buckled under the pressure that exists in "that milieu" and began doing drink and drugs - but mainly drink, said

His jailing for 12 months followed a newspaper exposing that the 25-year-old singer sent an imposter to complete the work at a homeless hostel in

London on his behalf. It was the second time Morrison had been before the court

Evans, yesterday. He said that for breaching the 150-hour or-Leicester-born Morrison, who der he was given in 1995 for his part in a nightclub fracas in which a student died, the court

> He failed to turn up at Leicester Crown Court for re-Heathrow airport last week.

think about the future - his father is terminally ill - and he court, Mr Evans said.

mative years in Florida before

sentencing last month because once dropped him on account he was in Barbados for "drugs of his bolshy attitude. rehabilitation" and was arrested on his return to London's He went to Barbados to

wanted to say sorry to the He probably also needed to

Take some other young roen, having toping a fake gun and wearing a T-shirt un-

soul. Other hits - "Crazy", "Horoy" and recently "Moan And Groan" - were said by one critic to have revealed his musical versatility, as well as a onetrack mind. He was born the son of a British soldier in West Ger-

> moving back to Britain when he was 19. Short in stature, he was always laden with gold jewellery and wore designer clothes and rarely travelled without bodyguards. His own management

many, spent many of his for-

think about the past. As the

prosecuting counsel said in

court, Morrison had a string of

previous convictions and had

served a three-month jail sen-

tence for threatening a Loudon

police officer with an electric

stun-gun last year. He was

fined £50 by Leicester magis-

trates in 1993 for obstructing a

police officer and £750 for

threatening behaviour in April

to parody his off stage violence.

As time went by he seemed to

find it harder to distinguish be-

tween play acting and real life.

Morrison was hailed as the fu-

ture of British soul for "Return

Of The Mack, which used the

swing beat sound of American

Morrison's stage act seemed

His lawyer concluded yesterday: "Some people can cope and some people cannot. Mr Morrison was one of those who cannot."

It was not sufficient defence to keep the singer out of prison. But it was certainly a

concise statement of truth. Smash Hits ceremony he appeared on stage

ON HIS TIME IN AMERICA "When I was there, I learned about

der his fur coat bearing the slogan "Not

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EU ready to ban drift-net fishing

By Katherine Butler in Brussels

EUROPEAN UNION governments are ready to accept a ban a formal vote in June. Britain, on "wall-of-death" drift-nets, blamed by environmentalists for wiping out huge numbers of dolphins, whales and other sea mammals.

Twelve of the fifteen EU

statute books - signalled yes-terday that they will vote for a ban on using drift nets to catch runa when the proposal goes to which had until recently opposed a ban, switched sides after winning support for an exemption for salmon fishing in the North and Baltic Seas.

Chairing a meeting in Brusfisheries ministers - enough to sels yesterday, the agriculture get the measure on to the minister, Jack Cunningham,

noted that a majority agreed that the problem of unwanted "by-catches" of dolphin and other fish must be quickly addressed. Around 2 per cent of the world's population of striped dolphin is thought to have been killed by drift-netting.

Exactly when the ban could come into play, and the scale of compensation for fishermen hit by the decision, remain a matter for negotiation. "At this

stage all that's agreed is a qualified majority in favour of banend to the practice. But Mr Morley said: "We are closing down ning high seas drift-nets. This is more than we expected." a major fisheries sector ... you said Elliot Morley, the British have got to be sensitive to people's livelihoods". minister for animal welfare.

France and Ireland, whose He hailed the step as a breakfleets are among the biggest through and defended the twoyear phase-out time proposed by users of drift nets, put up the the British EU presidency. strongest opposition to a ban-Greenpeace and other envieven though this form of fishing has been denounced by the UN ronmental groups have been as an "abominable practice". EU pressing for an EU ban since

able to help convert boats to long lines, and for tuna fishermen who want to quit. Spain, which has the EU's biggest fishing fleet, has converted to long lines for tuna and has been pushing for other countries, particularly the French, to accept a ban. Spanish anger at the effects of French drift-nets erupted in

a series of "tuna wars" in 1994 in the Bay of Biscay.

Brighton pier

BRIGHTON'S historic West Pier, which

has been closed to the public since 1975

for fear that it might fall down, has been awarded a £10.65m Lottery grant to help

restore it to its former glory, it was an-

been allocated for work above-deck to re-

store the stunning Victorian concert hall,

be resurrected as a leisure complex fea-

turing restaurants, shops, a health spa and

ed in to make the pier commercially viable are London Regional Properties and the restaurateur Oliver Peyton's Gruppo

England's only Grade I listed pier will

Two of the largest private investors draft-

Mr Peyton, 35, one of the youngest,

hippest entrepreneurs in London, who has

set up the successful Atlantic Bar and Grill

restaurant, Coast and Mash, will oversee the

running of the pier. He promises to turn

first seafront nightclub aged 19, said the new-

look pier would include two restaurants, two

bars, an art gallery, a theatre/concert venue.

mooring for 60 boats, an outdoor auditori-

um and "lots of things I can't talk about yet".

He added: "The pier is really one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen."

Since 1975 the structure of the pier,

Developers hope work will begin in June

or July and although the completion date

is 2002, the West Fier Trust hopes to make

which was built in 1866 at a cost of £27,000, has been disintegrating, a process speeded up by successive batterings in

Yesterday the Irishman, who opened his

Brighton into a British Miami.

stormy weather.

pavilion, arches and balustrading.

a museum, at a cost of £35m.

A further £3.55m of lottery money has

lands grants

for £l4m

nounced yesterday.

GTech fights to hold on to its lottery licence

THE BOARD of Glech, shareholders in the lottery operator Camelot, spent nearly four hours yesterday trying to persuade the National Lottery regulator, Oflot, that they are "fit and proper" people to help run the lottery.

The meeting was called following Richard Branson's victory in a libel case in which GTech's disgraced former director, Guy Snowden, was alleged to have tried to bribe the Virgin boss to withdraw from the race to win the lottery licence. William O'Connor, chief executive of Glech, emerged from the meeting saying that it had been "candid and thorough". John Stoker, Oflot's acting director general, who could revoke Camelot's licence, is seeking assurances that GTech has never - and is not currently - involved in unlawful activities. He intends to deliver a verdict "shortly". -- Clare Garner

Haughey's court challenge

THE FORMER Taoiseach, Charles Haughey, his wife, daughter and his two sisters yesterday began a High Court action in Dublin challenging the right of a judicial tribunal to carry out what has been dubbed a "trawl" through his family's finances. The inquiry into his financial affairs during his period in cabinet was instigated by the Dail last year after an earlier investigation revealed that while Taoiseach he received secret payments totalling £1.3m from the stores magnate Ben Dunne. The hearing was postponed for three weeks after Mr Haughcy broke his hip in a riding accident. - Alan Murdoch, Dublin

Men face charges of murder

TWO MEN appeared in court yesterday accused of the murder of a couple from Aberfoyle who vanished on their way home from a Christmas shopping trip on 18 December. lain Meikleham, 29, and John Parker, 27, appeared in private at Dumbarton Sheriff Court charged with the alleged murder of Roderick and Anne Marie Aitken, both 38.

Drunk pedestrians

ALMOST A THIRD of Scottish pedestrians had been drinking prior to being hurt in road accidents, according to research published yesterday. Pedestrians were also found to have drunk more than any other category of road accident victims. The Scottish Office study of records from five hospitals showed that 9 per cent of all road accident casualties had been drinking.

Independent winners

FOUR WRITERS and a photographer from The Independent and two writers from the Independent on Sunday have been short-listed for the Glenfiddich Awards - the most important awards for food and drink journalists. No other national newspaper has received more than two nominations.

Former Bibendum chef Simon Hopkinson, and his colleague Annie Bell, who both write for The Independent's Saturday magazine "ISM", are nominated for the Newspaper Cookery Writer of the Year award while Anthony Rose, who also writes for "ISM", is nominated as Wine Writer of the Year, Michael Jackson, who writes on beer, is nominated for the Drink Writer of the Year award. Patrice de Villiers has been short-listed for the Visual Award. Michael Bateman of the Independent on Sunday is nominated as Food Writer of the Year. His colleague Richard Ehrlich has also been short-listed for Drink Writer of the Year. The awards take place on 16 April. — Rose

WELTERS : DOCK!

Arts Council sheds half its members

By David Lister Arts News Editor

THE Arts Council confirmed vesterday that all its 23 members would be standing down over the coming months and the divide between the in-house new chairman. Gerry Robinson. would preside over a slimmeddown council of 10 people.

Mr Robinson, who is also chairman of the Granada cil is, but whether or not it is so-Group, hopes to make the arts cially funding system more efficient.

The reduction in numbers is likely to entail less bloodletting than has been predicted. Five council members are already stepping down as their appointments end on 31 March.

It also emerged yesterday that while some of the present council will be encouraged to sit on the new body, there will be no place for regional arts board chairs, or artform panel chairs representing their own adviso-

The chief executive, Peter Hewitt, explained that the new council needed to have people with a broad national overview.

It is expected that it will include a higher percentage of husiness leaders. But Mr Hewitt said yesterday: "We will not be suiting up. There will be important figures from the arts world on the council."

rector of the Kosh dance com- cessful.

pany, which won an ombudsman's ruling against the council's decision to cut its grant, is unconvinced about the promised new efficiency.

He said: "There is a serious culture of the Arts Council and the broader culture of the arts world as a whole. The question is not how slim the Arts Counand culturally representative of a much broader spectrum of the arts and society than it has been."

The new council will devolve some clients to the regional arts boards, whose powers are likely to be increased. Asked whether Arts Council-funded orchestras - which include the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the four London orchestras - would be devolved, Mr Hewitt said that no decision had yet been taken.

The council seemed to be making a stand for better communication in the arts, deciding at the council meeting that "the system should rid itself of cliche and jargon".

However, this resolve was short-lived. The next resolution called for the "the adoption of the more holistic and integrated approach to arts funding". As an example of eschewing jar-



mance of Verdi's La Traviato at the Albert Hall in London Photograph: Laurie Lewis the pier accessible to the public by 2000.

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Who's Who confessions

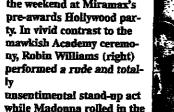
"ONE OF the great ornaments of British civilisation," was how Lord Jenkins of Hillhead described Who's Who at its 150th birthday bash on Monday night.

It was also the 50th anniversary of Roy's first inclusion in the social climber's bible and he celebrated with a rousing speech to the assembled "names" in the long room of the National Portrait Gallery. Confessing that he is an avid browser of both Who's Who and Who Was Who, his only complaint was about people who refused to allow their home addresses to be published. Did these literary types who gave their agents' addresses really fear that their gardens would be invaded by a mob of fawning readers?

Unsurprisingly for a celebration that was also a promotional event, a large percentage of the names on the list of invited guests was made up of journalists. So much so, perhaps, that it confused people. One lady, wedged between the livid portraits of Bobby Charlton and Salman Rushdie, was overheard to say, "Oh look, there's Kenneth Baker. Doesn't he have a lovely tan. Didn't he used to read the news on television?" One journalist not on the printed list of guests but very much in evidence at the party was Andrew Neil. Pandora could not believe that the shy, retiring Glaswegian editor-in-chief and chat-show host would have crashed such an event. Sure enough, a spokeswoman for Who's Who explained, "He was invited but he was a bit naughty and didn't bother to reply." As busy as he is these days, perhaps Neil confused the party with his usual evening out at Tramp.

High jinks in Hollywood

FORGET about Vanity Fair's big show-off post-Oscar party, all the gennine fun this year took place over the weekend at Miramax's pre-awards Hollywood party. In vivid contrast to the mawkish Academy ceremony, Robin Williams (right)



while Madonna rolled in the aisles with laughter. Then,

reports the New York Post, Matt Damon, star and co-author of the Miramax blockbuster Good Will Hanting, dressed up as a woman to spoof Mrs Brown. Finally, Dame Judi Dench and Helena Bonham Carter put on hard-bats for their take-off of Hunting. Perhaps next year Miramax will film their party and offer it as a genninely funny television alternative to Billy CrystaPs

Feeling faint at Filthy's

A PERFORMANCE that sounds rather more British (and considerably less fun) took place recently at Filthy McNasty's pub in Islington: a reading of The Smoke King by author Maurice Leitch. Among the guests was former dope lord, hestselling author and cannabis crusader Howard Marks, who brought along his mum. The reading went on ... and on ... and on. Suddenly a man standing beside Marks along one wall of the room fell over in a dead faint. One wag asked, "Was it because of the powerful fumes from Howard's hair?" Or just a contact high?

Mo's Irish mystery

WHO WILL be the next Director of Information at the Northern Ireland Office – the job otherwise known as "Mo's Mouthpiece"?

One rumour that has reached Pandora's ear about the replacement for Andy Wood, long-time holder of the position, says that the new appointment will be Cherie Dodd, the former Mirror political correspondent recently shifted to cover industrial affairs for the paper. When Pandora rang the Mirror yesterday to congratulate Cherie, she was out of the office. "In Northern Ireland for the day," said a newsdesk spokesman. "She'll be back tomorrow." But not for long, as the job is a three-year appointment and Cherie is intending to move the whole family to Belfast.

Mandelson changes socks

AN IMPORTANT correction was made to later editions of press releases of Peter Mandelson's speech to the Newspaper Conference at the Hilton yesterday. In the original draft, the Minister without Portfolio was quoted as saying "The Dome is a wonderful building and the contents are going to blow your socks off." Subsequent versions changed the verb "blow" to the verb "knock". Pandora can well understand why this change was made and compliments the Minister for doing an absolutely first-rate job.

Pandora

DAILY POEM

Somewhere

By Neil Powell

Logs are being sawn somewhere: Easing through the softened air,

Heavy with rain and sodden leaves. The sound of blade on timber gives

An edge to cloud's infinities. Mist buttresses the nervous trees,

Smoke jostles where the cloud resists, But there below the saw persists.

The blade gives edge to what it takes. The world is split. The timber breaks.

Our poems until Friday come from Neil Powell's Selected Poems (Catcanet, £8.95). Powell, who lives in Aldeburgh, Suffalls has a control of the control of th folk, has published critical works such as Carpeniers of Light and The Language of Jazz as well as four collections for Carcanet since 1977.



Knight in shining armour: Sir John Hall yesterday

Bold Sir John back to save Newcastle image

By Simon Turnbull

THE sound of alarm bells from the corridors of St James' Park accompanied the announcement in September last year standing down as chairman of Newcastle United Football Club. It proved to be a false alarm for the officers of the Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade, but not a false omen for the flagship of Tyncside.

"I feel I've done everything I set out to achieve." Sir John said six months ago. "I want to do a lot of other things. I want to finish the gardens at Wynyard

Yesterday, the bold Sir John left behind the trowel and the mower at his Co Durham estate to attend to the boardroom the knight in shining armour. and the straying Shepherd, but

tarnished reputation.

His son, Douglas, and his successor as chairman, Freddy the Shepherd families has been Shepherd, were not around to awful," he said, "and the effect that Sir John Hall would be face the music of a suite packed on Newcastle United has been to the rafters with members of the media at St James' Park. glas are full of remorse and Having reluctantly done the decent thing, however, and fallen upon the boardroom sword, lessly over the years to bring they left Sir John with no option but to not so much pick up the gauntlet as run with it.

The millionaire property developer whose money financed Newcastle's rise from near bankruptcy in 1992 to a place in the European Cup agreed yesterday to return as chairman of the football club until the end of May. He did so with anger in his heart; not, it mess at the club. He did so as transpired, for his prodigal son

of restoring Newcastle United's shortcomings in the black and white of the News of the World.

"The effect on the Hall and sad to watch. Freddy and Doucan't apologise enough... They have worked tire-

jobs to the North-east and to build Newcastle United from a club on the brink of bankruptcy and the old Third Division to a major force in the game. They are the ones who brought me to the club ... That has been forgotten in the last 10 days.{

The vilification has been terrible to watch. Yes, it was self-inflicted. But why were they targeted? Why were they set-up? I have been astonished to learn that one of the people

having accepted the challenge for the very unveiling of their involved in this expensive scam has a criminal record. The human cost has been immense. Please, please let us get on with

our lives." It was not so much a conference as a tirade. Sir John took no questions as he made his stern-faced departure. It had been different six months ago. The last word then belonged to the chairman-elect. "We hope Sir John makes good use of his bus pass," Mr Shepherd had

Yesterday, as Sir John returned, the chairman-deposed was not in the mood to talk let alone joke. Tracked down to a Barbados beach, Freddy Shepherd told a BBC television crew "no comment", before thrusting a paperback in front of the camera lens. It was a bit

late for a cover up. **Business Outlook, page 23**

Run around the office like an athlete.



over the nearest filing cabinet. Nor are we saying running rings around the boss is a wise political move. But if we tell you that CDX by K is a classic, executive style shoe with all the advanced design innovation of a sports shoe, then you might be catching our drift. Today's sophisticated trainers feature an unsurpassed level of 'comfort technology'. To incorporate similar design features in shoes for work (which we spend the majority of our time wearing) would make sense. And that's precisely what we've done.

We are not suggesting anyone needs to jump hurdles

The results of this are benefits previously only heard of on the sports field. The CDX range offers an anti-shock system between your heel, ball of foot and the ground reducing impact and tiredness. Beneath the deceptive executive exterior is an underfoot carbon layer which absorbs moisture and heat keeping your feet cooler.



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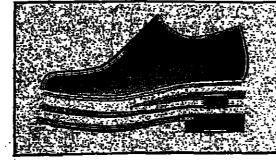
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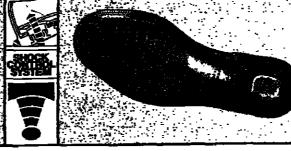
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COX shoes by K incorporate a wide range of individual specifications. For details of your nearest stockist please call 0990 665335. Sizes 6-12 (except 17/5)

deal collapsed and Mr Murdoch

left Italy. But it seems he left a

door open: Mr Murdoch and

other areas of possible mutual

ment, but I would not be sur-

prised if negotiations resumed

for a third time," commented

one source close to the Mur-

doch camp. Shares in Mediaset

fell on Monday on news that the

take-over had collapsed, but

flirtation with selling to Mr

Murdoch, in 1995, went

nowhere as Mediaset opted in-

stead for a recapitalisation and

a flotation on the Milan stock

a repeat of his last negotiations,

which lasted several months

before ending in failure. He

"Mr Murdoch did not want

Mr Berlusconi's previous

they steadied yesterday.

"The deal is off for the mo-

Blair denies aiding Murdoch bid for stake in Italian TV

By Colin Brown and Andrew Gumbel

QUESTIONS remained unanswered last night over whether Tony Blair met Rupert Murdoch to discuss the media magnate's attempts to take a stake in the Italian broadcasting market.

The Prime Minister in Paris denied doing any favours for Mr Murdoch after the Mr Blair's official spokesman in London had angrily described as "a joke" reports that Mr Blair had intervened on Mr Murdoch's behalf over the takeover.

Downing Street sources said the Prime Minister had held talks last week with Romano tend to brief upon all of it," said Prodi, the Prime Minister of Italy, over the telephone, but insisted that the call came from Mr Prodi. That version of events was confirmed in Rome.

However, Mr Blair's doch. spokesman refused to deny that Mr Blair used the opportunity to discuss the Murdoch issue.



into complex political game

the spokesman.

Last night, Downing Street also refused to discuss suggestions in Italy that the Prime Minister recently met Mr Mur-

"I have no information about whether there were meetings with the Prime Minister," "They had a discussion about said a Number Ten source. "I common issues and I do not in- am reluctant to go through the Murdoch could not have talked

a private meeting."

The unanswered questions could prove embarrassing for Mr Blair as the Government faces the prospect of having to Mr Berlusconi met again in overturn a Lords defeat on the London on Saturday to discuss Competition Bill which, if unchanged, could prevent Mr interest. Murdoch selling the Times, owned by his News Corp group at a cut-rate price.

The embarrassment for the

Prime Minister over the reports may have been eclipsed by the discomfort for Mr Murdoch who had found himself sucked into a complex Italian political game in which he was played for a fool. According to Mr Murdoch's Italian lawyers, it was Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian Opposition leader and former prime minister, who initiated the dialogue with Mr Murdoch by inviting BSkvB, in which he has a stake, to make an offer for Mr Berlusconi's media holding

company MediaseL Sources in Italy said Mr agreed to make an offer, but gave Berlusconi just 72 hours to

diary on what would have been to Mr Blair before Friday at the decide," explained Luca Arnearliest. That was the day the aboldi, of the legal firm Carnelutti in Milan.

An offer of 10,000 lire per share - or 5.8 trillion lire for Mr Berlusconi's controlling 50.6 per cent stake in Mediaset - was put on the table over dinner at Mr Berlusconi's private chateau at Arcore, outside Milan, 10 days ago. Mr Murdoch then withdrew to the Villa d'Este on the shores of Lake Como and waited for a reply.

On Thursday, with just hours to go before the deadline, the supposedly top-secret talks began to be artfully leaked, first to the Milan newspaper Corriere della Sera and then to Mr Berlusconi's own Canale 5 evening news programme. Senior figures in Italy's centre-left coalition government immediately reacted, urging Mr Berlusconi to prevent the country's private television stations falling into foreign hands. "Better Berlusconi than Murdoch," was the reaction of one left-winger.

Blair's muddle, page 17



year-old asthma sufferer, in London yesterday to launch a government campaign called Doing Your Bit which aims to cut pollution Photograph: Peter Jordan/PA

Peer condemns 'lobbyist' Prime Minister

By Paul McCann Media Correspondent

LORD McNALLY, the Liberal Democrat peer, provided the best take yesterday on the Prime Minister's actions on behalf of Rupert Murdoch's business plans in Italy: "Here we are straining every sinew to make sure lobbyists in Parliament are controlled. Then we find out that the Prime Minister is a lobbyist."

But he is not surprised. It was he who sponsored the amendment to the competition Bill passing through Parliament that would end the predatory pricing tacties of Mr Murdoch's Tunes newspaper.

The Government, because of its friendly relations with Mr Murdoch, opposed the amendment but was defeated by a cross-party alliance of peers by 121 votes to 93. Nevertheless, when the Bill returns to the Commons in 10 days time, the Government will rip the

amendment from it. "There is to be no Trade, to ask her to look at how these concompromise measure," said Lord Mc-Nally. "The only question is the lengths they go to, whipping for Murdoch, to quell any Labour revolt."

policy is just one of a number of issues where the Blair government has come to the aid of the News Corp empire.

In the aftermath of the HarperCollins disposal of the book by Chris Patten, former governor of Hong Kong, and Times correspondent Jonathan Mirsky's assertion that that newspaper is soft on China, the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, asked the Government to look at the conditions that permitted Mr Murdoch to take over the Times in 1981. The then trade secretary, John Biffen, laid down eight conditions for a non-referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and Mr Ashdown wrote to Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of

ditions were being breached over China.

Ms Beckett wrote to Mr Ashdown washing her hands of the paper's editorial independence: "Disputes be-The protection of the Times' pricing tween management and the editor on breaches on independence ... are à matter for the editor of the Times and the [Times'] independent national directors and not for the Government" - which is exactly the opposite of what parliament was told in 1981.

> In the same way, the Government has dismissed out of hand the requests of Labour backbenchers and countless others for new ownership legislation that would reduce the scale of Mr Murdoch's holdings in the United Kingdom.

The Blair government has also come to the aid of Mr Murdoch in less direct ways. As the biggest newspaper proimmediate rejection of privacy legisla-

tion in the aftermath of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

For the same reason, the imminent government decision on how to protect the press, and the Press Complaints Commission, from the privacy provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights cannot be seen as driven purely by a desire to protect press freedom. Even inadvertently the Government can be seen to favour Mr Murdoch. Last week's decision by an independent working party looking at the "jewels in the crown" sports (those protected for terrestrial television) to loosen the protection for English home cricket test matches, can be seen to hand BSkyB yet another sport.

All of which makes Tony Blair rather more valuable than the average Westminster lobbyist. The question is whether Mr Murdoch will pay his price prictor, he had most to gain by Mr Blair's of support at the next election and over a move to monetary union.

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Employers may sack staff to take on New Deal recruits

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

THE Government's flagship New Deal programme will inevitably push some young people out of work to create places for others who are on the scheme. Whitehall officials conceded yesterday.

One of the key aims of the initiative is to help the most disadvantaged into work and young group - 18 to 24-year-olds who people regarded as more employable may have to pay the price, according to a senior civil servant at the Department for Education and Employment.

Some employers may dismiss existing staff in order to take advantage of the £60-a-week govwork for young people on the

it is also likely that more capable job applicants will be rejected in favour of "sponsored" recruits.

Ministers hope the "substitution and displacement effect" will be limited and argue that it is a price worth paying. A briefing paper issued by the department yesterday admits that some of those in the target have been out of work for more than six months - may get jobs at the expense of others "who either become unemployed, or stay in unemployment when

they would have left it". It adds: "These will largely be people who will be able to ernment subsidy for providing find jobs without much intervention from us. If the overall

New Deal. For the same reason, employability of the workforce. Deal may have a spurious is raised, this should over time increase the economy's capacity to grow."

> The scheme has been pilotsince 5 January and not one particioant has so far fallen foul of the rules which ultimately provide for a 40 per cent cut in benefit, ministerial advisers said. After a "Gateway" period of are offered four options: a

vironmental task force, work with a voluntary organisation, full-time training or education, or a subsidised job. Ministers are fond of saying that there is no "fifth option".

pains to point out that the New said.

impact on labour market statistics. Unemployed young people who move into a subsidised New Deal job for instance, will ed in 12 "pathfinder" areas be shown as moving from the

dole into employment. Advisers accepted that this would only be "real" employment if the young person was kept on when the subsidy came to an end. The Government up to four months, participants wanted to be open about such effects and did not want to be place on the Government's en- accused of "fiddling the figures".

Ministers were not interested in simply switching young people off benefit into dead-end jobs or schemes, they wanted to transform the long-term prospects of the most disad-Officials yesterday were at vantaged, the briefing paper

MP warns Labour Last vestiges of caning swept away of 'the new sleaze'

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

A LIBERAL Democrat MP last night spoke of his "shame" at caning children as MPs voted to sweep away the last vestiges of corporal punishment in independent schools.

teacher, Phil Willis, the MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough, said: "Whenever I caned a child, I felt demeaned by it. Quite frankly, I felt quite ashamed later in life to feel that for many years I supported the

use of corporal punishment." Caning is banned in state schools but a handful of independent schools, some with strong religious connections, still administer corporal punishment. MPs were give a free vote by the Government to extend the ban in the independent schools during the final Commons stages of

the School Standards Bill. Eton, Harrow and the major public schools have all banned

caning, and the Independent Schools Council welcomed the extension of the ban on all corporal punishment.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on educachallenged backwoodsmen who defended "spanking" on the grounds that Former secondary school it did children no harm. "How do they know?" he said, "I have been caned. It did me harm."

> Mr Willis said there was a need to use a degree of force, sometimes to protect pupils, but caning was an admission of failure in discipline in schools. The ban will also stop punishment with a slipper or a ruler. It will still allow parents to smack their children, and smacking by child minders with the approval of parents.

> Corporal punishment in prisons and borstals was prohibited in 1967 - the same year that the Plowden report "Children and their Primary Schools" recommended banning corporal punishment in schools.

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S plans to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds through sponsorship this year amount to "the new sleaze," one of its MPs has told an inquiry. Publication of the submis-

sion from Paul Flynn to the Neill inquiry into party funding comes just a day after The Independent revealed how Labour is seeking sponsorship through lobbying firms. The party is maintaining links with staff who now work as lobbyists and has asked them to raise money from their clients.

Mr Flynn, MP Newport West, has told Sir Patrick Neill that his party's own suggestions on future political funding do not mention sponsorship at all. This could allow companies to avoid the new regulations, he said, and to give money without consulting their shareholders.

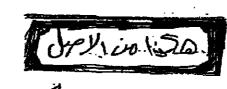
donations and sponsorship over sort of secret dealing is wrong.

£5,000, Mr Flynn said the limit could be difficult to police where

payments were made in kind. He urged the Neill Committee to look closely at the issue of sponsorship. Labour was planning to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds in that way this year, and the Tories had been

known to use the same methods. He gave Sir Patrick a list of recent Labour sponsorship deals. including funding for a Welfare to Work breakfast by British Aerospace, funding for a new. MPs induction conference by the drug company Novartis and funding for a Welfare Reform

roadshow by NTL Cabletel. A Labour spokesman said its submission to the committee did not mention sponsorship because "it was not an attempt to draw up a new law. If somebody sponsors an event in the Labour Party and if that sponsorship amounts to more than £5,000. that is open and declared. The Although Labour declares all suggestion that there is some



High-flyer whose attraction was fatal

By Kate Watson-Smyth

YOUNG, black, female gy-NHS and Joan Francisco was all of these. She was also stunningly attractive and intelligent. But, as her sister Margrette said, she had a certain naivety and was a poor judge of character and poor chooser of men.

Dr Francisco's relationship with Tony Diedrick ended in December 1988 but he refused Francisco was found dead in her west London flat. She had been her sisters, Margrette and Celia. some of Britain's leading doctors and she was buried wearing her stethoscope.

March 1995 but freed without then brought a civil action and yesterday Diedrick was named in the High Court as the murily is claiming up to £50,000 compensation.

Giving judgment, Mr Justice Alliot said Dr Francisco was a "remarkably attractive woman" who climbed high from a humble background. She drove a included the former Wimbledon footballer John Fashanu and the boxer Lennox Lewis.

But the picture of the jet-setting party animal was tempered by a more intimate portrait of the home-loving baby of the family who played her mother's favourite nieces on the piano and delighted in giving surprise presents. The Franciscos lived in a modest house In Acton, west London, and the stetrics and gynaecology. three children were encour-

Their mother, Venus, from St Lucia, was a murse, and their father, Alfred, from Belize, taught maths, physics and technical drawing in a secondary school until his retirement.

In an interview with the Independent last year Margrette recalled the family moving to Saudi Arabia for a couple of years when the sisters were of life and talent."

Australia

Hong Kong

India

freland

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young. "Father taught us at home, as though he was teaching secondary-school students. naecologists are rare in the He taught Joan to use a slide rule when she was five. He encouraged us to have seeking minds and always be curious."

All three sisters went to a school that was mainly white but race was never an issue for

"What we projected was what we expected and what we received," said Margrette, who, to accept it was over and on with Celia, is a lawyer in Los Boxing Day three years ago Dr Angeles. All three did well at school but Joan was the star.

"She was the most focused due to fly to Los Angeles to of all of us. When she had to spend the end of Christmas with study she wanted everybody else out of the way. She would Her funeral was attended by listen to study tapes in her sleep in the hope that she would learn subliminally.

"She gave up chocolates for Diedrick was arrested in Lent and then later decided it wasn't wise for a child to eat charge. The Francisco family them. So, at the age of nine, she gave up for good. At one stage, she decided that white flour wasn't good for her, so she der of Dr Francisco. The fam- baked her own bread every morning.

> But Dr Francisco also loved to dance and play the piano. At school she did the high jump and played netball.

However, her potential was not always appreciated at BMW, went to clubs and friends school and when she wanted to apply to medical college she was told she would not succeed, despite gaining straight As at A-

> With a determination typical of the entire Francisco family she applied for and was accepted by all five medical schools that she chose. She took up a place in 1991 at the Royal Free Medical Hospital, where she specialised in ob-

> Margrette said recently: She loved her work and cared passionately about her patients. She said bringing life into the world and saving lives was the most valuable contribution she could make."

Venus, said simply: "I shed tears every day for the loss of my precious daughter who brought life to so many during her short life as a gynaecologist and obstetrician. What a waste

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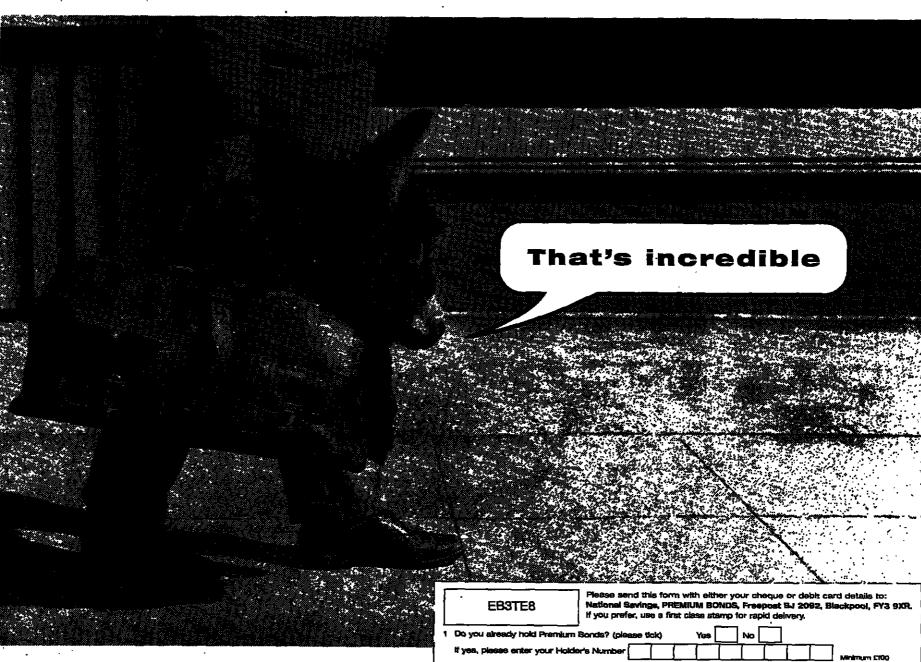






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Police chiefs urge ban on cannabis seed sales

Crime Correspondent

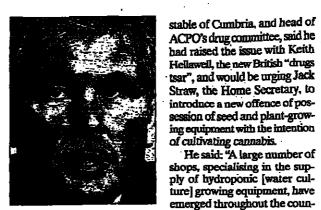
NEW LAWS to ban the sale of cannabis seed and dope-growing equipment are being urged

by police chiefs, it was disclosed

The Home Office is also being pressed to bring in legislation to introduce a new penalty forcing people caught in possession of cannabis to have anti-drug counselling. Firsttime users would be given a choice between being prosecuted or receiving a caution, plus some treatment.

Both ideas are being promoted by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). in an attempt to clamp down on the use and availability of cannabis, which is the most popular drug in Britain.

There is concern about the an upsurge in the number of people growing cannabis at home in the past five years, particularly the strong "skunk" variety. Home-growers are ex-



Drugs tsar Keith Hellawell

ploiting a legal loop-hole that allows them to buy cannabis seeds and the growing equipment legitimately from specialist shops and mail order.

The cultivation of cannabis plants is illegal, but not the sale or purchase of seeds. Many cultivators grow the drug for their own consumption, but others produce crops worth tens of

cost from £40 to £70 for a packthousands of pounds to sell. Colin Phillips, Chief Con-Growing equipment, which in-

stable of Cumbria, and head of cludes trays and a lighting sys-ACPO's drug committee, said he tem, starts at £75. Mr Phillips is also keen for had raised the issue with Keith the Government to adopt a Hellawell, the new British "drugs tsar", and would be urging Jack

scheme known as "caution plus", which is being piloted in a small number of voluntary projects including West Yorkshire and Bristol. Under the system, anyone He said: "A large number of caught in possession of a small amount of cannabis on their

first, second or possibly third time, is given the choice of receiving counselling as well as a caution. Chief constables believe this system should be made compulsory, although they acknowledge it would need a huge injection of extra cash to pay for treatment centres and counsellors.

The number of cautions given for possession of cannabis has increased almost tenfold in a decade, from 4,048 in 1986 to 40,391 by 1995.

500,000 illegal cannabis plants Mr Phillips said that Home being grown in Britain. Seeds Office officials were "encouret of 10, depending on variety. aging" about the proposals and

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Legalisation campaign rally

By Graham Ball

Independent On Sunday's cam-paign to decriminalise Britain's "I was on the first Londo most popular illicit drug are pot rally in 1967 and helped ortravelling from all over the country to Hyde Park for a march through the capital and be bigger. The drug issue is a rally in Trafalgar Square.

try... it is believed that some

even supply small cuttings of

cannabis plants. In addition,

cannabis seed is supplied

wholesale through various dis-

stands there is no specific of-

fence of either supplying

cannabis seed or supplying hy-

There are an estimated

droponic systems."

tributors nationwide. As the law

The march will be led by Labour MP Paul Flynn, who will be joined by the founder of Italy's Radical Party, Marco against people," she said. Pannella, a prominent camdrug laws and MEPs from Belgium, Italy and France. Britain's most colourful cannabis campaigner Howard Marks is also to speak at the rally.

The police have issued a warning to motorists to avoid the Piccadilly and Park Lane area on Saturday afternoon. We are expecting a crowd of between five and 16,000 marchers," a spokesman for the Metropolitan Police said.

One of the organisers of the last legalise-cannabis mass

among the marchers this Sat-ON SATURDAY the cannabis urday. "Tim tremendously exdebate takes to the streets of cited by this development," central London for the first time said Ms Coon, a writer and in 30 years. Supporters of the artist and one of the founders

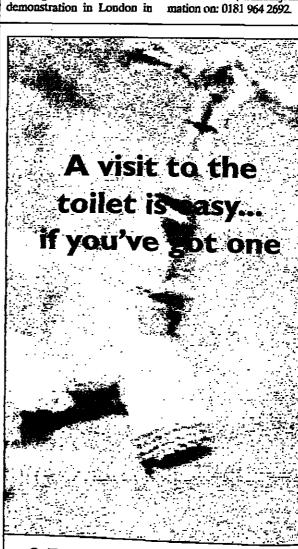
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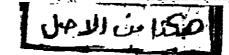
"I was on the first London ganise the one the following year but I think this is going to more important today than it was 30 years ago because we have all seen how the so-called war against drugs is really a war

During the six months that paigner for reform of European the campaign to decriminalise cannabis has been running in port of many prominent figures in the arts and entertainment, medicine and academia. The neurophysiologist Professor Colin Blakemore, Martin Amis, Harold Pinter, Margaret Drabble, Damien Hirst and legal expert Professor Michael Zander are among the many who have signed the paper's petition. ■ Join Saturday's march at Reformer's Tree in Hyde Park, central London, at midday. Information on: 0181 964 2692.



On Thursday 26th March 1998 The Independent will be publishing an 8 page report in association with WaterAid about the issues surrounding people's access to clean water and effective sanitation in the developing world.





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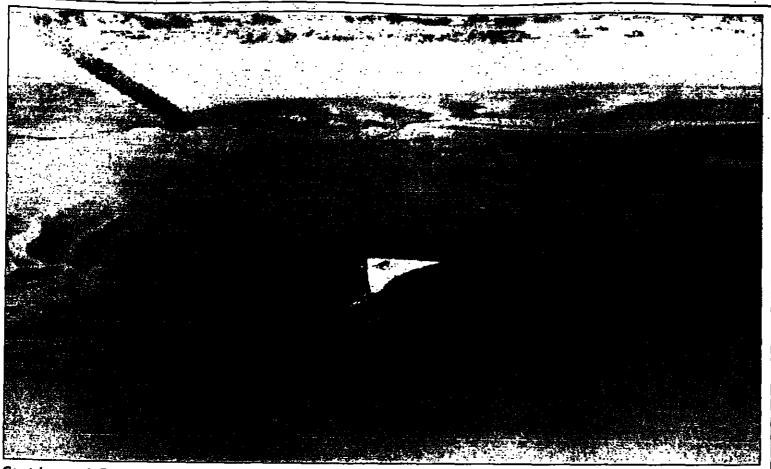
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Coastal approach: Brian Milton and Keith Reynolds coming in to land in France yesterday on the first leg of their journey Photograph: Andrew Buurmar

Pilot in microlight convoy crashes in France

A ROUND-the-world attempt by two microlight pilots was marred by a serious accident yesterday when a colleague travelling in convoy was hurt

Phil Good was preparing to fly back to Britain from Le Touquet on the French coast when his microlight

lish Channel with 33 other microlights accompanying Brian Milton and Keith Reynolds in GT Global Flyer which had set off earlier yesterday on the first leg of their journey from Brooklands Museum near Weybridge, Surrey, in an attempt to recreate the epic journey

povel Around the World in Eighty Days. Simon Newlyn, publicity director for GT Global Flyer, said: "The tragic

accident happened at about 12.30pm GMT when Mr Good was starting his aircraft to return to England when it appeared to reach full revs and run out

crashed. He had flown across the Eng- made by Phileas Fogg in Jules Verne's of control. The microlight hit another aircraft on the tarmac and crashed into an airport building."

One eyewitness at the airport said the microlight crashed through the windows of the passport-control building. Mr Good was taken to hospital after being treated for injuries on the airfield.

Headteachers attack parents over truancy

Education Correspondent

HEADTEACHERS yesterday called for legislation to outlaw parents from taking cheap termtime holidays as part of a crack-

down on persistent truents.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) also urged stern action against children who are continually late and said that it would back moves towards cutting child benefit from those parents who encouraged their children not to attend school.

David Hart, general secre-tary of the NAHT, said that lateness for lessons and children being taken out of school for holidays eroded discipline and encouraged truancy. A union submission to ministers argues that both can foster a "lax attitude" to attending school.

Heads say it is essential to convince parents that "truancy equals poor results, leading to unemployment, crime and a wasted life". Estimates suggest that as many as a million children play truant at some time.

Some are as young as seven. Headteachers are hoping the Prime Minister's Social Ex-

clusion Unit will back a hard line on truancy. The unit, set up to think the unthinkable", is understood to have floated the idea of withdrawing child benefit as a way of bringing into line par-ents whose children play truant.

Mr Hart said that benefit cuts could be used as an alternative to prosecution in the rare cases where parents persistently fail to make sure their children go to school.

He said: "Parental duties must be tackled with as much vigour as parental rights. Far too often parents either connive at their children's truancy or fail to take seriously their children's exclusion from school."

He said new penalties

should be considered to deal with what he called a hard core of parents who "actively encourage non-attendance". From September, all parents

and children will have to sign new home-school contracts. covering truancy, homework and general discipline.

But Mr Hart called for stronger action against parents who "arrogantly" take their children out of school. He said: "The Government must change the law and simply make it illegal for parents to take their children away from school during term time. That would send a strong message to parents that they are supposed to have their children at school."

Margaret Morrissey, spokeswoman for the National Association of Parent Teacher Associations, said parents would be helped if the heavy peak-time cost of travel was reduced. She said: "We really need to be getting together with the travel agents and all the people who make money out of parents at holiday time. We do not condone parents who take children out of school, but it can be understandable.

"What we would like to see is some support for parents who are failing to get their children to go to school."

The Government has committed £21m to initiatives designed to reduce trunney. Parents who fail to ensure that their children attend school already face fines of up to £1,000, but prosecutions are rare.

An Audit Commission study has shown that two-thirds of school-age offenders against the law are either excluded pupils or persistent truants.

Genetic-crop threat to wildlife survival

By Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent**

FIELDS of genetically engineered crops may lead to the starvation of wildlife, government advisers warned vesterday. Birds and insects could be deprived of the weeds and weed seeds which are an important food source.

these crops are designed to be created when genes from one self, which has been genetical-

Releases to the Environment is concerned that when this revolutionary technology takes off, cereal fields and their borders will be even more weed-free than they are with modern intensive farm-

chairman, John Beringer, Professor of Molecular Genetics at Bristol University, said: "It could be cranking up the pressure on species if this technology proceeds to the limit."

The committee's job is to advise ministers on what genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, can safely be released for use in The reason is that many of the environment. GMOs are used with broad-spectrum her-plant or animal are shifted perly into the DNA of ankind of plant except the crop it- other, creating varieties unlikely to arise in evolution or through ly modified to be resistant to the ordinary breeding techniques.

Several companies are jostling The Advisory Committee on to bring GMOs to Europe. The crops are widely grown in the United States, but in the European Union they face burdles set up by the EU and by its member states. There have been many small trials, but the earliest that

ing techniques. The committee's a GMO can legally be planted on a commercial basis will probably be next spring or later. The frontrunner is a modified oilseed rape owned by a Belgian company, Plant Genetic Systems.

The committee yesterday held its first press conference, on the publication of its fourth annual report, reflecting members' concern that the public is baffled and fearful about genetic engineering.

Professor Beringer said that he committee's main aim was not to endorse any GMO product which was more harmful than its ordinary equivalent.

The committee considers each application case by case. That meant it may miss the cumulative impact of many GMOs being approved and grown in Britain, he said, adding: "We ought to flag up things which could be a problem."

Evans in

bid for

digital

radio

By Paul McCann

Media Correspondent

THE rather dry world of digi-

tal radio was given an injection of life yesterday when it was announced that the unlikely bed-

fellows of Classic FM and Chris

Evans were joining forces to ap-

dios which never crackle or lose their signal. It can broadcast text, graphics, pictures and information services and can talk to personal and laptop computers.

The Radio Authority adver-

tised a national commercial digital licence yesterday that will give

the winner 12 years to establish,

in competition with the BBC, digital radio in the United Kingdom. Chris Evans' Ginger Media

Group has joined forces in the first bid to be announced with

GWR, owners of Classic FM and

a network of local radio stations. The bid was in the name of a new

consortium, Digital One. Richard Branson, a part-owner of Ginger Media Group, is ex-

pected to get involved in the bid. Other radio groups, such as

London's Capital and EMAP, are also expected to bid for the licence by the June deadline. The Radio Authority wants

whoever wins to encourage people to buy digital radios - cur-

rently retailing for more than

£1,000 - so they can be mass produced and the price will fall.

Digital radio - known as DAB-will mean compact discquality sound coming out of ra-

ply for a digital radio licence.

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Blacks still facing hard times in Liverpool's own form of apartheid

By Kim Sengupta

THE PUB at Liverpool dockside is for the mainly black clientele. "They generally kept together, the poor fellows, because they were at a disodvantage singly, and liable to slights in neighbouring streets," a police chief told a visiting writer from London.

That was in 1861, and the writer was Charles Dickens. When Anthony Bevins, The Independent's political editor, reported from his native city in 1989, a huge number of the pubs were still segregated and the police, many local blacks would

say, were a lot less sympathetic. The Independent's investigation into community relations in Liverpool followed a damning report by Lord Gifford who found that racial discrimination in Liverpool was "uniquely hornific." Mr Bevins concluded that the city practised "its own unique brand of apartheid," and the population, including some

blacks, close their mind to this fact. Nine years on, Tony Blair stated his commitment to a multicultural Britain. But the city his wife. Cherie, was born and raised in remains divided and full of distrust.

There are people who say little has changed. Liverpool, which has the oldest residential black population in the country, has just one black councillor out of 99, and just 0.3 per cent of local authority employees is estimated to be black. In 1996, a survey by the University of Liverpool suggested that one in every two members of the area's ethnic population had suffered racial abuse.

Just a mile from the predominantly black area of Toxteth is the city centre where it is highly unusual to see a black person serving at the stores, or working in offices.

Over the years, Liverpool bas built up a reputation as a place of racial tolerance and harmony. That, say black activists, is a mirage. The city had effectively operated a policy of segregation punctuated by outbreaks of violence. In 1919 and in 1948 there were race riots. Blacks were kept out of the better jobs and lived in areas with the worst housing.

In 1984, the Commission for Racial Equality reported systematic discrimination in the city council's housing policy. Five years later, the CRE issued a formal non-discrimination notice against the coun-

cil because nothing had been done. The discrimination had continued during Militant's stormy stewardship of the city. In fact, Derek Hatton and his comrades were vehemently opposed to any form of special help being given to the ethnic minorities because they claimed it would lead to a white backlash and weaken working-class solidarity.

This working-class solidarity does not extend to white residents accepting blacks as their neighbours

in the better off working-class areas, say pressure groups. The best of the council and Housing Trust properties is in the north of the city, and few black families who moved there from the south have managed to settle, most driven out by harassment.

At the Liverpool 8 Law Centre, which grew out of the Liverpool 8 Defence Committee following the Toxteth riots, co-ordinator Maria O'Reilly, said: "There are parts of a strange situation, white Liverpool north Liverpool where black peo- people denounce apartheid in

ple would not go alone after dark because they would be attacked and may even be killed. This is not melodramatic, you do find black dead bodies there and no one knows what had happened. Black families who have moved there also face a lot of harassment. What has improved in the last nine years? Next to nothing. Liverpool is a deeply racist city with its own form of anartheid. It's

South Africa, yet fail to see a problem here. No wonder black people feel that they don't matter in the eyes of the authorities."

The feeling of disenchantment and hopelessness is felt acutely in the streets of Toxteth. Granby Street was once a busy mixture of residential housing and shops. Now it lies virtually deserted with shattered shops, empty homes and the rubble of pulled down buildings.

The Granby Street project is part

Empty promises: Stephen Nze in Granby Street, Toxteth, once a vibrant mixture of residential homes and shops now virtually deserted, with shops boarded up and many buildings pulled down

of a council redevelopment open tion, but locals claim they had not been properly consulted, and the community does not want to be dis-

persed in this fashion. Stephen Nze said: "It just show the contempt they have for people around here. They would no behave like this towards white ped ple in north Liverpool. In their eyes, our opinion isn't worth anything ... Heseltine poured a lot of money in

but what happened to it?" Academics and other experis maintain that black pressure groups are wrong to state that their view are totally ignored. Gideon Ben-Tovim, a councillor and university reader, said: "The ethnic minorities now do have greater access h channels to the authorities, so in that respect things have improved although they are far from perfect."

Anne Wright, equality manager at Liverpool City Council, stressed that the council was not sanguine about the situation. She pointed out that a number of measures have been taken to further racial equality, adding: "We know there is a major problem, and it is not some thing we are taking lightly."

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There's a Great Deal going on

Lawrence inquiry told of catalogue of police blunders

the names of the five main suspects within 24 hours but failed to arrest them until a fortnight later, the judicial inquiry into his death was told yesterday.

That decision was described as "seriously flawed" by Edmund Lawson, QC, the government-appointed counsel to the inquiry, who used the first day of the hearing to deliver a the failure in this case cannot blistering critique of the conduct of the police investigation. Mr Lawson highlighted examples of alleged incompetence at every stage, including the "crass" failure of a surveillance photographer to report two incidents of bags being removed from the home of two suspects - bags which, he said, might have contained bloodstained clothing.

The inquiry, ordered by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, is examining issues arising from the death of Stephen, 18, who was stabbed by a white gang at a bus stop in Eltham, south-east London, five years ago. Mr Lawson's criticisms were echoed by Michael Mansfield QC, counsel for the Lawrence family, who said the identities of the five white youths were repeated to detectives by 26 different sources - including three police officers - in the two

weeks before the arrests. The suspects, members of a local gang, were named in telephone calls to the incident as being involved in Stephen's murder as well as in a recent spate of racist killings and attacks in the area. Charges against the five youths - Neil and Jamie Acourt, Gary Dobson, of protection." Mr Mansfield

was also unsuccessful. The inquiry, chaired by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, plans to

call the five to give evidence. Delivering his opening speech, with Mr and Mrs Lawrence at his side. Mr Mansfield said the investigation had been undermined from the start by racism. "The magnitude of



Stephen Lawrence: Stabbed by a gang of white youths

be explained by mere incompetence, or a lack of direction by senior officers, or a lack of execution by junior officers, or by woeful under-resourcing.

"So much was missed by so many that deeper causes and forces must be considered. The forces relate to two main propositions. One, that the victim was black, and that there was as a result a racism, conscious and unconscious, that permeated the investigation. Two, the fact that the perpetrators were white and were expecting some form

David Norris and Luke Knight added: "The inordinate and were all dropped before trial, extensive delays and inactions POLICE investigating the main and a private prosecution take give tile to one plain question der of the black teenager on out by Stephen's pareins was the initial investigation cessful prosecution?"

He said it was incredible. given that 56 officers were assigned to the case on the first night, that - he alleged - therewas no systematic search of the area and witnesses were not properly debriefed.

Pursuing the theme of racial disharmony, Mr Mansfield quoted from a statement that Mrs Lawrence is to make to the inquiry today. In it, she says: "Stephen was well-loved and, had he been given the chance to survive, maybe he would have been the one to bridge the. gap between black and white. Because he did not distinguish between black and white; he sawpeople as people."

For his part, Mr Lawson was particularly scathing about the inexcusable" failure of officers to act on early tip-offs, and theresulting delays before identity parades were held and suspects' houses were searched.

"It appears that in a number of material respects, the police conduct of the investigation went hadly wrong," he said. "Why weren't those arrests and searches carried out much, much more quickly? The police. if they can, must answer the indictment of delay."

A catalogue of police errogs listed by Mr Lawson included their alleged failure to admin ister first aid to Stephen at the scene, to liaise sensitively with his family or to deal appropriately with important witnesses: such as Duwayne Brooks Stephen's friend. Forensic evidence such as a bloodstained tis

Dramatic twist to trial by TV

By Paul McCann Media Correspondent

ONCE to watch TV actors play out a courtroom drama in front of a jury of real people you had to be taking a sickie. The three day format of Crown Court in the Seventies meant people often extended their sick leave after they were well so they could see the verdict from fictitious Fulchester on a Friday after-

But now it is back and you won't have to lie to your boss. This summer ITV is resurrect-

Accused, a new, weekly hourlong courtroom drama that will air in the evening peak time. Actors will again play the defence, prosecution, witnesses and judges, while members of the public will form the jury, and come to an unscripted verdict.

ITV announced the new show in its Spring and Summer season launch yesterday and hinted that the viewing figures for the Louise Woodward trial had influenced its thinking.

"There is scope for a court room drama in peak time," ing the Crown Court format in rector of programming. "The

idea of using members of the public for the jury has always. been an attractive idea. Crowd Court used to have fantastic writers and powerful stories and I want this to be a modern drama with really contemporary; stories,'

Mr Liddiment said that using real people in a jury was the closest television could come to Court TV in America which at tracts big audiences for major. trials. In the UK, satellite channel Sky News quadrupled its? said David Liddiment, ITV's di-lowed the Woodward trial. viewing figures when it fol-

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French right salutes 'Le Blairisme'

By John Lichfield in Pans

It was a speech with something for everyone but one which delighted, most of all, the beleaguered French centre-right. Tony Blair's speech to the National Assembly in Paris yesterday had gone through several drafts. The Prime Minister apparently wanted it to be a significant speech, not just a piece of rhetorical wall-paper.

His account of the Blairist "third way" was applauded, cheered and whooped by parliamentarians of the French right, It was received at best politely, and for long passages in si-

There was thunderous applause

lence, by the Socialist and Commu- on the left side of the hemicycle. nist deputies. Mr Blair, speaking in Jokes about Socialism may be fine convincing French, made something in Blairist New Britain but the ideof an ideological faux pas at the be- al and the word - if not the practice ginning of his 35-minute speech - are still treated with reverence on with a joking reminiscence of his student days in Paris. When he worked "re-founding" of the friendship bein the French capital as a waiter 25 tween Britain and France was sinyears ago, the Prime Minister re- cerely meant, according to someone called, he was supposed to put all his who worked on the various drafts. Mr tins in a common pot. It was a cou- Blair called for the 90-year-old Enple of weeks before he realised that tente Cordiale to be recreated as he was the only person doing so. "It "une entente réelle, une entente prowas my first lesson in applied so- fonde" (a real understanding, a deep understanding).

The specifics of what this might from Gaullist and liberal deputies; mean were a little thin. Mr Blair and a deafening and stony-faced silence the French Socialist prime minister,

small businesses. Mr Blair urged the rapid creation of a permanent French-British military rapid-deployment force. This is an interesting idea but has been under discussion in Paris and London for several years. On Europe, there were many words to satisfy the most pro-European French politicians.

Britain will be "prepared" to join the euro, "do not doubt that", when the "clear and unambiguous" economic facts made it economically sensible for Britain to join. Mr Blair called for more European integration to protect the environment and

give it a stronger political dimension "a political commitment to community" - which is also a French preoccupation.

But in a passage which might have fallen out of a Sun editorial, he rejected a "Europe of conformity" and any EU move to harmonise education, health personal taxes, culture and identity, Fortunately, no such EU proposals exist. But what turned into the most controversial section of the speech was the long. seemingly straightforward central passage defending New Labourism. Blairism and the "third way" between

Lionel Jospin, are to set up a joint to fight crime and drugs. He also interventionist Socialism and free-had perhaps forgotten the extent to task-force to study ways of helping called for the reform of the EU to market capitalism. There was little which "Le Blairisme" has been here that Mr Blair had not said a hundred times before, in Britain.

Blairism was, he said, "an attempt to make realistic sense of the modern world. It is a world in which love of ideals is essential but addiction to ideology can be fatal ... there are no ideological preconditions, no pre-determined veto on means. What counts is what works ..."

These words brought cheers and wild applause from the centre-right deputies and silence from the Socialists. Greens and Communists who form the Jospin government. Mr Blair and his speechwriters

French government is managing the

economy very well." He received a standing ovation from deputies of all political per

made a weapon by the French right

to assault the allegedly antediluvian

French left. Mr Blair's words were a perfectly reasonable defence of

New Labour, but in the French

context, they were heard by both

sides as an implied criticism of the

Jospin administration. Mr Blair had

the good sense - and the good

French - to interject at this stage:

"And the present [Socialist-ica]

School swot with a taste for danger

THE team of tough-minded Russian wheeler-dealers whom the West is so fond of calling young reformers is not entirely dull. One is cheerfully fending off allegations that he was - horror of horrors - witness to a striptease. Five others are smarting after being caught in a dodgy book deal.

But Sergei Kiriyenko, Russia's acting prime minister. looks like the genuine article. quietly, cleanly and calculatedly glided up the ladder into one of the top jobs at the age of 35.

Mr Kiriyenko was a freshman cabinet minister until Monday, when he was ushered into the limelight with the startled air of a school swot who has - against all the odds ter his own promotion, com- a cabinet in a week, though - won the hammer throwing competition. No one in Moscow foresaw him as Boris Yeltsin's choice to replace Viktor Chernomyrdin, whom the Russian President dismissed on Monday along with Anatoly Chubais - the guru of the market-vrientated reformers and the Interior Minister, Ana-

taly Kulikov. some of Mr Kiriyenko's traits are clear enough. Balding and bespectacled, he looks like a a gift for making powerful allies. The biggest name in his address book: Boris Nemtsov, the glitzy governor whom Boris

Phil Reeves and Helen Womack

in Moscow profile Sergei Kiriyenko

ago. But he also has ties with Mr Chubais, with whom he fought side-by-side to persuade diehard federal min-

Crucially, the oil and media found him pragmatic, evenmagnate Boris Berezovsky one of Russia's tiny clique of his side. Mr Kiriyenko was pleting a journey that began

After school in the Black

Sea resort of Sochi, the Georgian-born Kiriyenko - the son book Soviet career path. He grumbling. graduated from a ship-building regional refinery, before mov- frustrated public. ing to the energy ministry as Mr

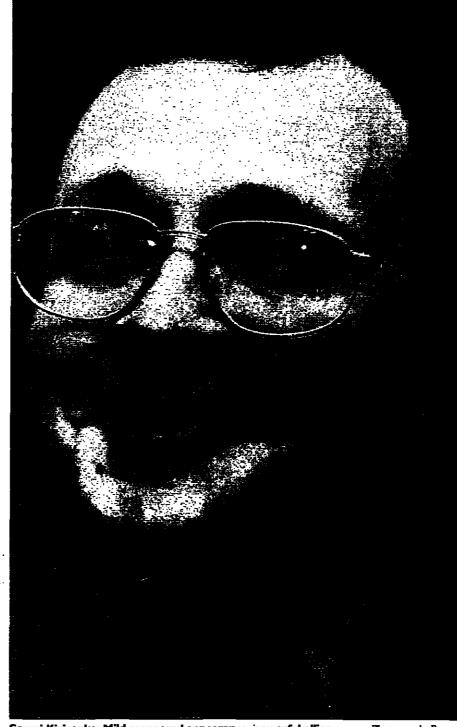
Nemtsov's protégé. Prime Minister nearly a year pushing forward with plans terday.

for state sell-offs, notably Rosneft, and freeing industrial giants from their overwhelming social welfare obligations, such as schools, shops, and kindergartens for their employees' families. In November, he took over from Mr Nemtsov as head of the Fuel and Energy Ministry responsible for the engine room of Russia's shrunken economy - the oil companies, and the natural an earnest technocrat who has istries to bring Russia's vast gas monopoly Gazprom. His energy subsidies under control. new acquaintances in Moscow

> tempered, but determined. It remains to be seen kingmakers - is said to be on whether Mr Kiriyenko is a blip on the screen, or will play one of the first friends Mr a larger role in Russia's histo-Nemtsov invited to Moscow af- ry. He has been asked to name Boris Yeltsin will have the fiyears earlier in the provinces. nal say. His appointment is subject to the approval of the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, whose powerful Comof a professor—set about a text- munist lobby is already

He is - sources say - fond Institute in Gorki, and then of risky sports such as pot-holmoved to Nizhny Novgorod ing and mountain climbing. where he became a leader of This is an advantage. To survive tion for young Communists. weather intrigues, in and out of After a brief flirtation with the Kremlin; battle corrupbanking, he went into the oil tion, back a path through a lekindly bank clerk. But he has business, becoming head of a gal quagmire, and appease a

"The Government has been thrown out, but we are still cold Once in Moscow, he firmed and hungry." demonstrators in Yeltsin made First Deputy up his pro-market leanings by Vladivostok complained yes-



Sergei Kiriyenko: Mild-mannered appearance, powerful allies

Yeltsin fires second cannonade at aides

A DAY after being plucked from obscurity to become acting prime minister of a huge and restless nuclear power, Sergei Kiriyenko, yesterday began work in forming a government - without knowing for sure whether his own job is permanent, writes Phil Reeves.

missing his entire government, including premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, the 67-year-old Pres- to call for the removal of the govident turned his ire on his own aides, "We must create an en- sia's vast wages and pension vironment in which everyone knows and feels that a failure But it also belongs to his broad-

April the Communist opposition plans mass demonstrations emment, and to protest at Rusarrears and economic disarray. to fulfil orders means death," he er ambition to win a place in history as a reformer. Tomorrow, Kohl, the German Chancellor.

The little-known Mr Kiriyenko, 35, has been given a week by Mr Yeltsin to form a government. But although he fired them all, Mr Yeltsin has already indicated that he does not intend to dispense with

many ministers beyond Mr fuel and energy minister under Chernomyrdin, his leading market reformer Anatoly Chubais and the interior minister, Anatoly Kulikov. The jobs of two key players - foreign minister Yevgeny Primakov. and defence minister Sergei

Sergeyev - are considered safe. Whether Mr Kiriyenko becomes prime minister remains uncertain. A political novice. Ivan Rybkin, minister for Comwith only a three-month stint as monwealth affairs.

his belt, Mr Kiriyenko may have been chosen by Mr Yeltsin as a bargaining chip in negotiations over the next oremier with parliament. The Russian press has been seething with speculation. Among those tipped are the mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, first deputy prime minister, Boris Nemtsov, and

world that he remains in charge said, "You will have immediately of Russia, despite his ailments to submit your resignation." he hopes to bask anew in the inand the struggling economy. Mr Yeltsin's latest flourish of ternational limelight by hosting a summit with French president, In a cameo performance on the are through the ranks of his television one day after disteam was clearly timed. On 9 Jacques Chirac, and Helmut

As he did so, Boris Yeltsin fired off a second cannonade in his eccentric campaign to prove to his countrymen and the

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Kosovo's war of ghosts and whispers

in Tushille

IN KOSOVO's Drenica region, you are surrounded by the Chinese whispers of a war zone. A few miles down the road (you are constantly warned) there is shooting, snipers; it is impossible to move. The reality - once you have passed the Serb checkpoints, where armed men in bullet-proof vests scrutinise every document, is less dramatic, though just as smister.

Those inside the ring of steel say there has been little shooting in recent days. But they live a life of barren misery. In the past few weeks, 80 Albanian men, women and children have been killed by Serb forces in "anti-terrorist operations". Some villages have been destroyed and others abandoned, for fear of suffering a

After passing the final checkpoint, you drive through a ghostly landscape of locked and shuttered houses. Occasionally, you plass a small group But it would be absurd to supof men who stand silently they deny they are members of the seemingly invisible Kosovo Liberation Army. They are merely "protecting the houses".

There is fear on both sides. The Serbian forces are wary of roaming here. Albanians, too, dare not move, for fear of what the Serb forces might do. Foreign journalists and aid workers are the only people who

travel through this dead zone. Just west of the deserted vil-

a frozen waterfall, to the hamlet of Tushille. Here, hundred of refugees are gathered. In the schoolroom, they wait listless ly. Other than bread and water, there is nothing to eat. There: was a visif this week from Médecins sans Frontières bringing medicines. But food supplies do not get through.

"We fled our village when the police started shooting. For two days, we slept in the mount tains," says Mihane, 41, cradling. her young daughter." My brother and sister have been killed. My uncle was killed. Now I'm not afraid of war. Nothing can be worse than what they [the Serbs] have already done."

The five-country contact group - Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States - meets today to decide what to do about Serbia's brutal crackdown, but President Slobodan Milosevic has rarely been bothered about international criticism before.

In one respect, the Albanians in Tushille seem crushed. pose Serbia's tough policy will struggle for Kosovo's independence. Drenica is seeing the radicalism of despair. "There is no KLA," claims one woman in Tushille. "We're all for the KLA," says another. A third woman declares: "I want the peaceful way. But we must protect our homes."

Decani (AP) - One policeman was killed and several were seriously wounded yesterday at Rzic, near Decani in lage of Lausha, a bumpy track Kosovo yesterday, the Yugoslav runs down along a stream, past news agency Tanjug said.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, **Aung San Suu Kyi** and Jose Ramos Horta

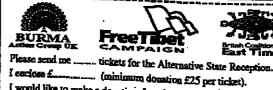
ASEM II - THE ALTERNATIVE STATE RECEPTION FOR THE UNREPRESENTED PEOPLES OF ASIA hosted by

Joanna Lumley

The Royal Institution, 21 Albermarie Street, London W1 6pm-10pm Thursday 2nd April 1998

ASEM II in London on 3-4 April is a Heads of State meeting to promote trade and investment between Asia and Europe. Millions of people are suffering human rights abuses and oppression in Asia and yet they will have no voice at ASEM II. The Alternative State Reception will highlight these issues and give a voice to the Unrepresented Peoples of Asia. Guest speakers will include three Nobel Peace Prize Winners: Jose Ramos Horta of East Timor and, on video, His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet and Aung San Sun Kyi of Burma. Free Tibet Campaign, Burma Action Group, British Coalition for East Timor, Tapol, National Women's Network and the Philippine Resource Centre have worked together to organise this inspiring occasion for Peace, Freedom and Democracy.

Tickets are available for a minimum donation of £25. Donations to these non-profit making voluntary organisations will be very gratefully received and used to support Peace, Freedom and Democracy, Telephone 0171 359 7573 for more information. Demonstrate : 'ASEM:Put People First'. Saturday 4 April. Ham Jubilee Gardens, nr Waterleo. Rally: Trafalgar Square, 1.30pm.







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THE INDEPENDENT WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 1998

14/FOREIGN

MultiPASS™ time over Monica

WASHINGTON'S Bill and Monica show could run and run, it emerged yesterday, out-lasting Mr Clinton's presidency and giving the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, the sort of job security his peers could only dream of.

The prospect that the investigation into President Clinton's relationship with the White House trainee Monica Lewinsky might not be con-cluded as envisaged in the next few weeks was raised by the President's controversial decision to invoke "executive privilege" to shield conversations with aides.

Mr Clinton's legal team they were invoking executive privilege to excuse members of the President's team from answering certain questions in the Monica Lewinsky case.

Lindsey, his longtime associate and deputy legal adviser, and the White House media guru Sidney Blumenthal. Both aides have already testified before the investigation, but both were expected to be recalled for further questioning. Yesterday however, a further scheduled appearance by Mr Blumenthal was postponed in-

Initially, Mr Clinton's decision to invoke executive privilege was seen as politically ilege" has had negative connotations ever since it was tigation. He fought right up to the Supreme Court to keep the tapes private, lost, and the rest is history.

been commonly disparaged as an underhand means for a president to evade the law.

In Mr Clinton's case, the suspicion is that he may be trysigned to protect national to avoid a perjury charge.

President could be out of office before inquiry finishes, Mary Dejevsky writes from

vestigation turned up evidence that he had lied under oath about the nature of his relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

Washington

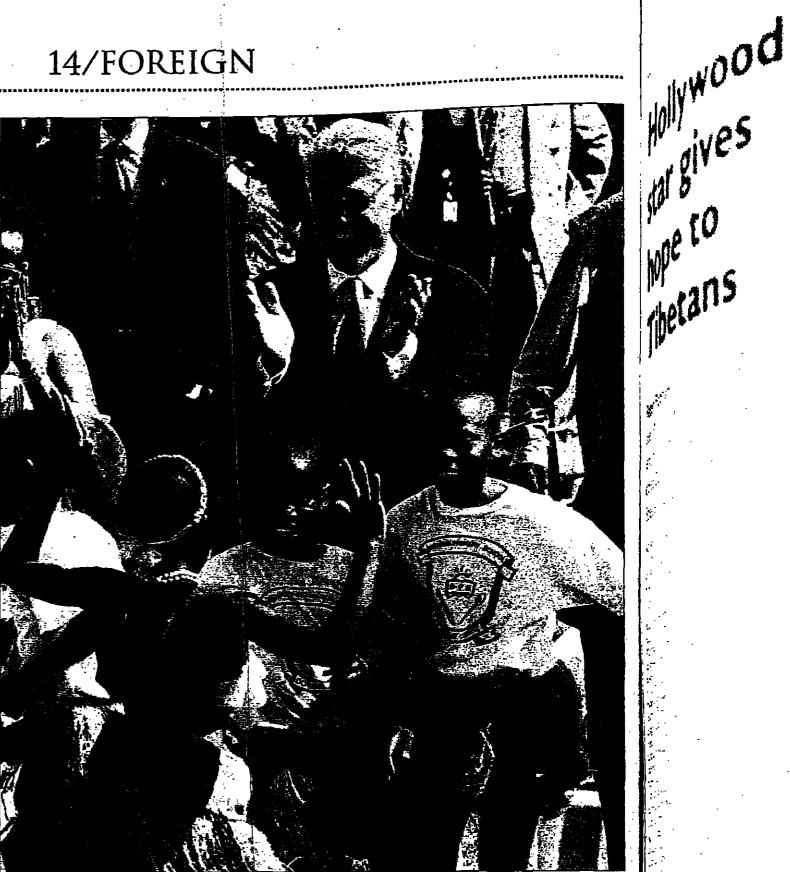
However, one leading conconfirmed at the weekend that stitutional lawyer, Peter Shane of Pittsburgh University's law school, told the New York Times that apparent public support for Mr Clinton's right to keep his sex life private contrasted The plea involved two of Mr with public distaste for the Clinton's closest aides: Bruce cover-up of the Watergate burglary. The political liability might therefore have been exaggerated.

Others noted that what little Mr Clinton might have lost politically, he had gained massively in time. If the question of his right to claim executive privilege was challenged by Mr Starr, and went through the courts, there could be a delay of months, a year, or more.

A further factor could be the likely claim of executive privilege for Hillary Clinton, to questionable. "Executive priv- cover conversations that she might have had with the two named advisers. The legal batinvoked by Richard Nixon dur- the over the first lady's right to ing Watergate to keep his Oval be covered by executive privi-Office tapes out of the inves- lege could last even longer. met the crown prince of the

Meanwhile the investigation of the Lewinsky case leaders. Second only to Presicome increasingly difficult to miring West, President Yoweri reconstruct a paper trail of decept of executive privilege has ception in the White House even if one existed.

this carries a price, not so much for Mr Clinton, as for the Vice-President, Al Gore. If take Uganda, showing one of ing to use a legal provision de- the investigation were to drag on into the next presidential security to protect his own campaign, Mr Gore's associapersonal privacy or- worse - tion with the Clinton White House could prove an electoral



Scandal clouds visit to Museveni

President Bill Clinton yesterday "new generation" of African Museveni of Uganda, who took power by force in 1986, likes to think of himself as the Bismar-Drawing out the case like ck of Africa. He hopes Mr Clinton's Africa tour will make the international community

> Africa, more seriously. He must have been dismayed then by yesterday's press conference with Mr Clinton in Kampala, as US correspon-

> the highest rates of growth in

dents focused on the sex and perjury claims swamping Mr Clinton. Not as much as a polite inquiry was made about Uganda's problems or aspirations. Like Ghana's president. Jerry Rawlings, the first African leader to welcome Mr Clinton Mr Museveni is a darling of the World Bank and IMF. He brought peace and economic growth to Uganda, left in ruins by the excesses of former presidents Idi Amin and Milton Obote. But he has taken fewer steps towards democracy than Mr Rawlings, former coup leader turned elected president. Uganda espouses a "noparty democracy": there are opposition parties and a free

Museveni: No democrat

elections. Mr Museveni says Uganda would degenerate into tribal conflict in a multi-party system. After the violence of previous regimes and the return of stability, the international

community seems prepared to buy Mr Museveni's case. Uganda's opposition newspapers yes-terday accused Mr Clinton of backing the authoritarian. regime.

Concerns about democracy extend to many of the leaders attending today's regional conference with the US president in Kampala. That helps make the visit to Uganda and Rwanda the trickiest part of the presidential tour, which will also take in South Africa, Botswana and Senegal. They may have become stable, but few operate Western-style democracies, But these days that appears to matter less to the West than good governance, stability and economic reform.

Reminders of Franco's days are left on the shelf

DIARY

til the Sixties, and for anyone

who lived through those years.

shabby is not chic, but the stig-

ma of deprivation. Rich and

poor alike were obsessed with

the new. But today's youngsters

penniless, though well-fed and

educated, love the recycled

look, and shops selling Sixties

and Seventies gear are popping

costs 169 pesetas or, as

the label informs me, 1.01 eu-

ros. How the exchange rate is

reckoned between the peseta

advent of the single currency.

PACK of four yoghurts

in my local supermarket

up everywhere.

PANIARDS are getting the hang of recycling, a difficult idea for people who tend to chuck things out as carelessly as they toss prawnshells to the floor. I used to ride in the outskirts of Madrid, but feared for the horse's hooves among the assorted bedsteads, old sofas and polythene bags strewn over the scrubland that passes for countryside hereabouts.

Recycling glass is gaining ac-ceptance, and "Madrilenos" think it's great fun to shatter bottle after bottle in street-corner recycling bins around midnight. And every six months the authorities announce an amnesty when you can tip unwanted furniture on the pavement for the council to clear away. But few Spanish friends do what I do, and roam the streets ahead of the council vehicles - not to deposit, but to salvage a handsome bookcase, sidetable or arm chair.

Second-hand shops are rare, since used clothes or furniture - overpriced antiques apart are equated with second-best. Some designer frock exchanges are emerging, but are snooty claustrophobic establishments compared with their breezy British or American counterparts. Few Madrilenos enter into the spirit of bargain-hunting: you pay through the nose, or it is assumed you can't afford it. Many still prefer to admit how

much, rather how little, they pay. Perhaps it has to do with a generation that remembers hardship. In Spain, widespread bunger and poverty existed unall the costs will be borne by the banks, you won't have to pay a thing. Que maravilla! Pesetas not to mention pounds and dollars, will doubtless soon be thought as obsolete as doublooms or pieces of eight.

WAS lucky enough to be invited to the opera the oth-Ler day. Covent Garden's splendid production of Turandot, in the inaugural season of Madrid's renovated opera house, the Teatro Real. But why, in this warmest and most demonstrative of European capitals, does the audience sit enthralled through three hours of magic, only to turn its back as the curtain calls bring you gently back to reality?

Charmingly exuberant in their own private circle, Spaniards often appear inhibited in a wider public gathering. My friend Maria says her compatriots are afraid to step out of line and be thought raro. strange. "I went to the theatre with my 16-year-old son," she says, "and it was so wonderful I encouraged him to shout 'bravo', but he wouldn't until I did. Then everyone did."

and a currency that doesn't yet exist I don't know. It's part of Spaniards find Brits, on the other hand, inexplicably low-key a campaign to prepare us for the in small groups, but consider our EU-funded propaganda capacity to let rip in the dribbles into my ear from the anonymity of the crowd state radio station every mornadmirable, even awesome. ing as I'm surfacing. It'll be won-Anyway it was very disagreeable, derful when we join the euro, a while bouquets were still being mellifluous voice puris against presented, to be buffeted by soothing music, you'll be able to opera lovers stampeding for their velvet capes, as if despertake holidays abroad without the bassle of changing money, and

Swiss try to avert bank sanctions

press but they cannot contest

BERN, Switzerland (AP) - The Swiss government will send a representative to a New York meeting to try to avert any US sanctions against Swiss banks and insurers over the Holocaust. officials said yesterday.

Thomas Borer, head of Switzerland's task force on the Second World War, will join US city and state officials in the meeting called for tomorrow by the New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi. New York State and Cali-

fornia are among several key states that have threatened action against the banks Last December the state

and city officials suspended action for three months to see what progress the Swiss would make in righting any wrongs to Holocaust victims or their heirs.

Switzerland's three leading banks last week rejected as "unwarranted and counterproductive" an ultimatum from the California Treasurer Matt Fong that they must reach a settlement with Holocaust victims by the end of the moratorium or face a boycott.

Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, the top Clinton administration official dealing with the Nazi era, has opposed the imposition of city and state sanctions on Swiss banks Meanwhile, political pressure is growing in Switzerland for countermeasures against any

His Holiness the Dalai Lama. **Aung San Suu Kyi** and Jose Ramos Horta

ASEM II - THE ALTERNATIVE STATE RECEPTION FOR THE UNREPRESENTED PROPLES OF ASIA hosted by

6pm-I0pm Thursday 2nd April 1998

Joanna Lumley The Royal Institution, 21 Albertmarie Street, London W1

Wine and canapes will be served ASEM II in London on 3-4 April is a Heads of State meeting to promote trade and investment between Asia and Europe. Millions of people are suffering human rights abuses and oppression in Asia and yet they will have no voice at ASEM II. The Alternative State Reception will highlight these issues and give a voice to the Unrepresented Peoples of Asia. Guest speakers will include three Nobel Peace Prize Winners: Jose Ramos Horta of East Timor and, on video, His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet and Aung San Sun Kyi of Burna. Free Tibet Campaign, Burma Action Group, British Coalition for East Timor, Tapol, National Women's Network and the Philippine Resource Centre have worked together to organise this inspiring occasion for Peace, Freedom and Democracy.

Tickets are available for a minimum densiting of 575 Dougtions to Tickets are available for a minimum donation of £25. Donations to

these non-profit making voluntary organisations will be very gratefully received and used to support Peace, Freedom and Democracy. Telephone 0171 359 7573 for more information. Demonstrate : 'ASEM:Put People First'. Sanuday 4 April. 11am Jubilee Gardens, ur Waterico. Rally: Trafalgar Square, 1.30pm.





. tickets for the Alternative State Reception. (minimum donation £25 per ticket). I would like to make a donation. I enclose a cheque/PO for: £200 £100 £50 £25 Other £

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Please make cheques payable to Free Tibet Campaign, and post to 9 Islington Green, London N1 2XH. Credit card orders can also be made on 0171 359 7573, or faxed to 0171 354 1026.

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صكرا من الاعل

Museveni

mes the Palaila ng San Sun Ky use Ramos Hora

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Peter Popham sees Richard Gere lend a sympathetic ear at Delhi's

RICHARD GERE descended on a dusty, fly-blown wedge of central Delhi on Monday to bestow his blessings on six very hungry Tibetans.

Speaker's Corner

It's a place called Jantar Mantar and it is desperately in need of blessings of every kind. Marooned between the concrete towers of the city offices, a five-star hotel and a park, it is a concentration of Asian miseries and grievances of every description. The six Tibetans, fasting indefinitely in an attempt to goad the United Nations into taking action over their brutalized homeland, are just one fragment of it. If you made Speakers' Cor-

ner in Hyde Park a permanent event and married it with a squatter's camp, you would end up with something like Jantar Mantar. Tents of PVC and sacking moored to railings occupy half the pavement. Office workers pick their way along the portion that remains while naked children play tag and mothers hang washing on lines strung between traffic signs. Six hundred people squat here. Sikh families whose homes were destroyed and lives threatened in the riots of 1984 that followed the assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards. Further along the pavement

is the saddest spot in Jantar man called Sonam Dickey sits cross-legged with a portrait of her son, a musician, in her lap, tears coursing down her face. He was imprisoned by the Chinese for espionage, and is serving an 18-year prison term.
A MOTHER'S APPEAL

reads the sign behind her, asking for help to bring his release. .J. would like to meet my son nce before my death." The Tibetans on hunger trike occupy a tent in what used

b be the small public park ere. The grass is all gone; all hat is left is dust, flies and worhy causes, some more hopeless han others. The walls of a hack are decorated with maps llustrating with arrows how the ubcontinent should be unified. A long written screed painted on board urges world government.

These are the gigantists, the men with big ideas. Across the way are four men who have been sitting on a carpet here for 1,309 days demanding the creation of a new state called Uttarkhand out of the north of Uttar Pradesh. This is, in fact, one of the few specific promises in the new government's National Agenda, but after 1.309 days these militants are not taking chances. "We will continue to struggle, we stay here until it happens," one said.

Inside the Tibetans' tent there is an altar with white silk shawls, flowers, slabs of butter and a picture of the Dalai Lama. Until Monday, this tent was just another speck of hopeless hope. But then Richard Gere came, the serious Buddhist who has made India his second home, the walking antithesis of the Hollywood dabbler. In a sharp black suit and gleaming white shirt, the sandalwood talisman round his wrist the only clue to his spiritual leanings, he put his hands together in greeting and the reporters' long wait for him was instantly forgiven.

He bent an ear to all six of the strikers, the youngest, a 25year-old artist called Karma Sichoe, the oldest, Kunsang, a 70-year-old labourer, the only woman, 68-year-old Palzom, whose family died under the Chinese occupation, one son of starvation. The UN in Delhi confirmed that the strikers' demands-for a new debate on Tibet, for the dispatch of a special envoy there and investigation into human rights violations had been forwarded to New York Morale got a tremendous boost. Next day the euphoria was gone. The grim lassitude Mantar: an elderly Tibetan was back this was the 15th day of the strike. Two earlier hun strikes had been called off without result; this time they were determined to go all the

> Earlier hunger strikes had been called off after the Dalai Lama intervened: Buddhism opposes the taking of all life, including one's own, so a "fastunto-death" poses a moral problem. This time, however, they have petitioned the Dalai Lama to stay out of it, arguing the cause justified the sacrifice; and if no word comes from the UN, they are determined to go

> all the way. Outside the park, meanwhile, in her sad little tent by the railings, Sonam Dickey waited with ever-diminishing optimism for one final meeting with her son.

Taliban edict forces out UN

THE UN shut operations in southern Afghanistan following attacks on UN staff and an edict forcing foreign Muslim women working in Afghanistan to be accompanied by a close male. elative. This is the first time the UN has taken such a drasc step in response to Afghanistan's Taliban army, which con-lois roughly 85 per cent of the country. — AP, Islamabad

East Europe hit by TB

UBERCULOSIS was increasing in Russia and Central and ast Europe, the World Health Organisation said in a report leased on World Tuberculosis Day. Cases rose by 25 per cent 1996 compared with 1994. In Russia, with 111,000 cases, e rate was 75 cases per 100,000, compared with six per 100,000 relatively unaffected Sweden. — Reuters, Copenhagen

pes face fire extinction

HE UN Development Programme is to mobilise 1,000 voltteers to fight forest fires in Borneo that are threatening a tional park. News reports said orangutans face extinction ithe area because of fires and hunting.

—AP, Jokarta

langs a lot

HAI authorities seized 4,000 live snakes packed into crates the shipped to China for use as food and medicine. They we rescued while the crates were being loaded into a plane. le snakes could have earned the smuggler as much as £20,000. akes are protected in Thailand. - AP. Bangkok





Buddhist monk's VIP treatment

BANGKOK (AP) - Thailand's royal family has ordered the military to fly the country's most popular Buddhist monk to a Bangkok hospital for treatment of his heart ailment.

Luang Phor Khoon has been in hospital in the rural town of Nakhon Ratchasima, 130 miles north-east of Bangkok, since last Thursday.

Luang Phor Khoon has gained a wide following because people helieve that if he hits them on the head with a rolled-up newspaper, they have a better chance of winning the state lottery.

The monk's blessing and endorsement is sought by many Thai politicians.

Doctors said that the monk would be flown by an army helicopter to Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok as soon as he was well enough to be moved.

Luang Phor Khoon was quoted in the Bangkok Post as saying that he wanted to live long enough to see the school and hospital projects that he is sponsoring com-

"If I die now, nobody will carry on," the Post quoted the monk as saying, "So I will

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Worth a trip to Ireland

Carlo Gebler agrees there are too many Irish versions of classic plays, writes Robert Hanks, but nowhere else would do for his production of The Dance of Death'

JUST what we need: another Irish version of a European classic. In recent years we have been offered Irish Sophocles, Irish Aeschylus, Irish Chekhov - what seems like an awful lot of Irish Chekhov - Irish Lorca and Irish Ibsen. Anybody who wants to foist an Irish Strindberg on a paying audience needs a pretty good excuse by now.

Carlo Gebler, whose version of The Dance of Deuth opens at the Tricycle Theatre next week, knows this perfectly well - when talk turns to the sheer volume of "Hibernicised" classies he mutters "Disgusting, isn't it?". and he seems to mean it. Although, he says he admires Frank McGuinness's version of Three Sisters, for example, he is as unimpressed by Irishness as only an Irishman can be, blaming the glut of Irish plays and adaptations we have seen in recent years on "the English lashing themselves for the

The problem facing the adaptor who takes a classic to Ireland is not simply what he loses, but what he might gain

empire: 'Now we're taking our punishment and we'll do Chekhov in Mayo, we'll show that we're really sorry and we'll have all this Irish stuff all over our theatre."

But when Nicholas Kent, the Tricycle's artistic director and director of this production, asked Gebler to consider shifting The Dance of Death, he didn't hesitate. For one thing, he is, he says, a great lover of autobiographical Inferno - a record of alchemical experiments and a kind of mystical paranoia written during the 1890s, just a few years before The Dance of Death. On top of that, Ireland is the only place he knows - setting the play there immediately gave him a "voice", a vernacular he could work in. But finally. Gebler simply felt intuitively that the play would be at home in an Irish setting.

Certainly, some aspects translate very

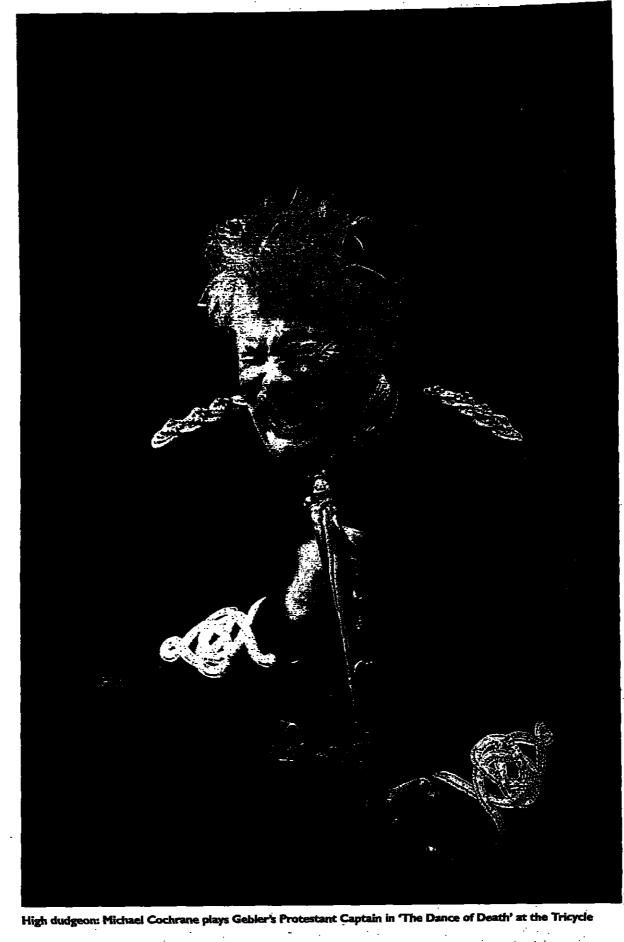
action on a garrison island off the Swedish coast, Gebler places it in a Martello tower, one of many built around the Irish coast in expectation of Napoleonic invasion; and there is an extravagance in the vicious, often hilariously black rhetoric that Strindberg's central characters, a superannuated captain and his wife, hurl at each other which suits Irish idioms better than it might suit a more restrained English version.

Gebler's version seems like a close reading of Strindberg, until you compare it with a more literal translation. His working practice was to read a couple of pages of the play in every translation he could get, then write down from memory what he thought happened. When he had been through the entire play like this, he compared his version with the Swedish original and found it was 4,000 to 5,000 words longer. So, he set about slashing every one of his sentences to the length of Strindberg's original ones, chucking out fidelity and occasionally comprehensibility in favour of pace.

On the page, the result works fine, at least in Part 1 (The Dance of Death is two plays, both of which are to be performed at the Tricycle - take a cushion). But you know what they say, "Traditore, traduttore": to translate is to betray. The problem facing the adaptor who takes a classic to Ireland is not simply what he loses, but what he might gain.

In the case of The Dance of Death, Gebler gains a whole new subtext about sectarian and national conflict. The Captain and his wife, Edgar and Alice, here become a mixed marriage - he is an impoverished Protestant, she is from a rather grander Catholic family, his quarrel with her cousin (Kurt in the original, here renamed Conor) takes on explicitly religious overtones. Gebler takes this theme even further by setting Part 1 in the summer of 1913, so that Part 2, which takes up the story two-and-a-half years later, coincides with the Easter Rising of 1916. Strindberg, having been attracted as a Given the play's deeply personal nature – teenager to the sheer raging insanity of his Strindberg based it, rather too obviously for comfort, on his sister and her husband - this political dimension may offend Strindberg purists. They may also be worried about the way Gebier plays up aspects of the story -

notably a sub-plot about some shares. Gebier himself has no doubt that he is serving the play: "I wanted to make the intrinsic qualities even stronger - I wanted to make it seem more what it was than it was at the moment, if that makes sense." naturally: where Strindberg placed the In his view, making the marriage a mixed



one and making Kurt/Conor, a character Strindberg apparently identified with, a being an outsider. Adding the Easter Riswhich runs through the two plays - as in his novel The Cure, Gebler is intrigued by the point of view of the Irish-born servants of English rule: in this case, the attitude towards the Rising of the soldier whose comrades are dying like flies in Flanders.

As for the plot elements he plays up, he says this is done to make sense of a play which at times strays very far away from being sensible. He attributes the incoherencies to the way Strindberg wrote the play: after finishing Part 1, he sent it to his German trans-

lator and friend, Emil Schering, who wrote Tuesday: Gebler himself has no doubt that back that no theatre would ever put it on Catholic accentuates Strindberg's sense of because, in Gebler's phrase: "They would be slitting their wrists in the intermission." Kent used when rejecting a previous play of Gebler's - he clearly inherits his summy temperament from his mother, novelist Edna O'Brien, who has never been famous for her optimistic world-view.) He then wrote the marginally more cheerful Part 2 without rereading what he had already done, adding some discrepancies (such as the Captain's sudden apparent affluence) which Gebler

felt needed sorting out. Has taking Strindberg to Ireland been worth the trip? Audiences can decide next

his changes help to keep the action moving smoothly. Strindberg himself would have approved: The thing to remember about Strindberg," according to Gebler, "is that, although a nutter, he was very, very practical. His idea, and I share his sentiments, is: they're going to come in, they're going to pay money, they're going to sit for a couple of hours, they could be doing something much, much better - give them a damn good time."

The Dance of Death, Parts I and 2, opens on Tuesday 31 March at the Tricycle Theatre, London NW6 (0171 328 1000). Carlo Gebler's novel 'How to Murder a Man' is published next week by Little, Brown.

Long time waiting for a dry debate

Prowse fails to live up to over-excited expectations of European drama, says Sue Wilson

In the Solitude of the Cotton Fields/The Dying Gaul/The Millionairess, Citizens

Theatre, Glasgow WITH PATRICE Chereau's 1995 production of Bernard-Marie Koltes's Dans La Solitude des Champs de Coton still vivid in theatre-going memory as one of the Edinburgh Festival's all-time highlights, expectations of Philip Prowse's new English-language production - given the Citz's long and honourable track-record of staging European drama - were running high

That anticipation (for those few who were party to the facts prior to finding the apologies slip in their programmes on opening night) was decidedly muddied, however, by the discovery that Prowse and company were working from the wrong script, namely a translation unauthorised by Koltes's estate, rather than the official version by Jeffrey Wainwright, who - then in blissful ignorance of the substitution wrote about the play in The Independent a couple of weeks ago.

Several days' increasingly frantic negotiations between the theatre and Koltes's agent and executors, including talk of an injunction to prevent the play opening, resulted in the aforementioned apology to all concerned (though not in explanation of exactly how such a fundamental error occurred), with the show - "a production based on work done by the company on a translation by Christopher Rathbone" - duly going on. Perhaps the best outcome to be looked for in such circumstances would be a triumph for Prowse's version, but unfortunately it proved to be about as much of a damp squib as Koltes's extraordinary verbal architecture allows.

The sheer, fiendishly loaded glory of Koltes's language, in this emblematically metaphysical tale of Dealer and Client meeting in some twilight urban ne'erworld, of itself supplies superabundant mental fodder to sustain the piece's hour-long duration, with its intricate, adamantine, scalpel-sharp probings of the symbioses between desire, need, power, fear, gratification and morality. However, Prowse's direction - deliberately, one presumes brings almost nothing extra to the text, apart from a stylish upside-down design, with both Andrew Joseph's and Robert David Mac-Donald's performances characterised by a near-total dearth of expressive inflection reducing the tone of the drama to little more than dry intellectual debate, the pair's frequent fluffs and stumbles over lines puncturing the necessary tension still further.

Thankfully, things improved considerably over the next two nights, in the latest instalment of a season that certainly highlights the consistently ambitious sweep of the Citz's work. Contemporary American drama was next up, with the world premiere of Craig Lucas's latest play looking to build on the reputation established by previous works such as Prelude to a Kiss and Long-

time Companion. The Mamet-tinged story of a young screenwriter, Robert (Stephen Scott), seeking to commemorate his recently dead lover by making the (eponymous) movie they worked on together, it touches deftly on a whole cluster of contemporary preoccupations. Cyber-communication, psychotherapy, AIDS, the existence of angels, Buddhist philosophy and the legacy of the Holocaust all surface against the duplictous machinations of the film industry, is embodied by the Mephistophelian figue of Jeffrey (Henry Ian Cusick), the film's chillingly amoral producer. While a nunber of alarmingly creaky plot-hinges ac required to encompass this little lot, a cor-pellingly realised trio of central perfrmances - including Lorna McDevittis Jeffrey's shrewd but emotionally adfit wife Elaine – provide a vibrant human cre to the action, enabling most of its densly compacted themes to breathe with ngrossing, even gripping resonance.

And finally, in the main house, a tre revival for Shaw's late comedy of moey and (ill) manners, staged with wonderd grit and panache by director Giles Harrgal, amid Kenny Miller's airily elegandesign. Anne Myatt stars as Epifania be obstreperous middle-aged heiress of thtitle, simultaneously waging war on heestranged playboy-sportsman husband wile trying - if only half-consciously - to ad an outlet for her formidable passions nd energies in a society still decidedly ncomfortable with women of independnt minds and means.

While the gradual shift from Cow-desque barbed badinage towards weigher ideological concerns, dissecting the relatus between class, capital, power and labur, does grind its gears at times, the dialoge's relishable pithiness and expertly mintained patch, between character-realism ad camp, cutting satire, keeps things flowing at a cracking, crackling pace, boosted by prformances all round of equal poise, vigar and flourish.

Paul Taylor 429 0022.

INDEPENDENT

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Educated Rita's older sister learns to speak for herself

THE BIGGEST no-show in drama is, of course, Beckett's Godot. A character who runs Godot a close second is Ronnie, the character whose failure to arrive turns out to be a godsend in disguise for the young heroine of Roots, Arnold Wesker's landmark 1959 play beautifully revived by John Retallack in a touring co-production between Oxford Stage Company and the Palace Theatre, Watford.

The unseen Ronnie has been living in London for three years with Beatie Bryant, whom he has taught to read the Guardian and pumped full of progress ideas she has not truly assimilated. Samantha Spiro splendidly projects the naïve missionary ardour with which Beatie returns for a visit to her rural, working-class, family home in Norfolk. Tending to stand on chairs when she does so, she spouts Ronnie's thoughts at her relations, and it is possible that there is two knowingly subversive a note in Ms Spiros' gesticulating delivery of these pronouncements. The audience should begin to deduce that Ronnie is a bit of a pain (though not for the same reasons that Beatie's folks do): Beatie herself should be the largely unconscious agent of this.

Bovine, submissive, rejecting all attempts at high culture as "squit", the family are spectacularly in fertile ground for Ronnie's proxy seeds of wisdom. But Retallack, who is a master at coaxing superb ensemble playing from a company, does not fall into the trap of presenting them from Beatie's point of view or from imaging that that point of view is inflexible. The actors here are excellent: You



Retallack re-tells Wesker's story of the awakening of an independent female spirit

really feel that these people have a lifetime of shared memories, subterranean veins of humour and affection running through the block of their stupidity. Their existence may be mindnumbing, incurious and repetitive but

we see that there are saving graces. Sally Mates is superb as the mother: the sad. doomed attempts to establish some intimacy with her runaway daughter and then the ugly triumphalism - the product of years of being cooped up and condescending to - when Ronnie writes to break

off with Beatie. Ms Mates induces audience empathy with this woman, even as you deplore her tactics.

A play about the awakening of an independent female spirit, Roots has echoes of Ibsen's A Doll's House, in the defiant solo dance at the end of Act One, and pre-echoes of Educating Rita, in the resilient humour and inquisitiveness of its heroine.

Retallack stages the moment at the end when the beleaguered Beatie suddenly stops parroting Rounie and finds her own voice ("I'm be-

ginning... I'm beginning!) in a man-

ner that is wonderfully true to its mix

of realism and romanticism. A screen

drops between Beatie and her fam-

ily at the aborted tea party, leaving

her alone in a vast black and white

projection of lonely Norfolk land-

scape, stretches flat and bare under

a lowering sky. A new, difficult start

and an image that is rightly both em-

barrassing and uplifting, gauche and

The vegetables in your Sunday lunch should worry you as much as the beef, says Rose Prince



WE WORRY about meat. We think about how much we eat and whether it affects our health, where it comes from and how it was grown; we despair of the industry that supplies it and some of us worry that we ourselves demanded too much of that industry, forcing it into unorthodox production methods in order to supply the demands of millions for a beef burger a day. And all the time we worry and fret about evidence being given to the current BSE public inquiry, directives are given by the medical profession, the Department of Health and the vegetarian lobby to eat plenty of vegetables.

Those of us concerned about our health are eating our greens. Lots of them. We are quite hooked on them now - and anyone who picks up a modern cookbook or eats out regularly is discovering that there are hundreds of varieties out there. Retailers are bending over backwards to supply them - all year round and cheaply of course, because we hate paying for vegetables and feel affronted if our produce bill comes near that for meat or fish.

But look closer at the industry that is making sure that we feel good about ourselves and the way we are treating our bodies and there is an uncomfortable feeling that our good intentions are harmful - to our health, our land and the industry itfind a huge and eclectic range of produce. potato, ten of mushrooms and every conceivable type of edible root; squashes and onions, mange tout and courgettes, dozens of lettuces - or salad leaves as they are now known - and the exotic pak choi, seaweed and water chestnuts. In total 125 varieties; very few of them in season and

Time to go back to our roots

says: "Now the consumer is more city based they have come to expect things like asparagus to be available all year round." While he feels Waitrose are obliged to offer choice to the better-travelled customer, he admits that doing so increased the store's profitability.

The trouble is that if the consumer chooses to eat certain vegetables out of season, the produce must be chemically altered in some way to encourage growth outside that season. If it cannot be done, those vegetables have to be imported. Many of the pesticides and fertilisers used on crops are not safe if the clearance period, (that is the time between spraying and being put on a shop shelf) is not long self. Visit any supermarket and you will enough. There is no enforced regulation in the business to ensure that this is not

> Intensive farming and its use of chemicals has long been suspected as being at the heart of many allergy-related and some neurological diseases. Heavy use of cheming. icals in agriculture has led to soil becoming merely a holding material for seedlings and whatever growth-enhancers the farmer



gang work forces is not unusual in Kent farming "is a little too intensive", and, of them immigrants - working for below the minimum wage set by the Agriculture Wages Board are brought in for harvest-

Alan Wilson does not believe the practice is widespread. All of Waitrose's farm workers are full-time and they have uses. Intensive farming also has a weak a history of clean employee-employer Alan Wilson, Waitrose's agronomist reputation in business ethics. Use of practice. He says that British vegetable

the supermarket has added organic vegetables to their shelves. Not many - out of the 125 vegetables previously mentioned, only 16 were organically grown. Before all the blame is laid at the feet

of the growers, note that it is the supermarkets who are the main, sometimes sole, client of the big firms. One farmer, who did not want to be named, said: "If the client want their spring greens a week early, the grower is unlikely to mention that they were only sprayed with a pesticide last week and that there ought to be a long abatement period before cutting. He cuts and sells rather than losing business."

Many consumers, particularly those who are town and city-based, are ignorant of growing seasons and never stop to wonder where their beloved tough little french beans are growing in the winter.

So it is us well-meaning veg lovers who are putting the whole industry under intense pressure to satisfy, at all costs, our desire to cook and eat whatever and as much as we desire. It is quite common in restaurants as well as in British home cooking to find half a dozen different vegetables accompanying the roast meat, composition for that dish. Restaurants often serve them in a separate little dish as if to say "look - we tried hard with the vegetables," confusing the diner who wonders if they should transfer the lukewarm mange touts, broccoli and two types of potato to their plate or eat them straight off the serving dish. "Meat and two veg" is a thing of the past, now we have

"meat with six out-of-season imports." One man with a different approach to growing and eating his greens is the organic farmer Ian Nelson. Sunnyfield's, his farm on the south coast near Southampton, has had Soil Association approval for 11 years. Eight years ago Nelson took it over. He was initially trained in agriculture and horticulture. He took his knowledge to Malawi in Africa on a Voluntary Services Overseas project, showing the farmers there how to increase yields and lessen the probability of losing crops through pest invasion. The VSO project was successful, but returning home was Nelson's 'road to Damascus': he was appalled that here similar methods of growing should be employed when the British

people were in no way hungry. He is anxious to get across that he is "not a hippy". He says: "If you to try to dominate nature rather than stay within its confines it will have fatal consequences." Over the year 150 varieties of produce are grown at Sunnyfields - everything from roots and onions to the more exotic red chard.

He believes that where possible we should seek out superior tasting naturally grown vegetables, eat them discriminately and pay more. Nelson's customers are happy to shell out for organic, believing a superior product can stand alone as a dish. "We put the finest oil in our cars, ies?" he asks.

"We have to learn from the disaster in beef farming. Mass-production stresses and strains an industry often with catastrophic consequences realised too late. A tempered, less ardent course in buying and eating our food could be preventative without a change of quality in our

There's a difference between meddling and muddling

THERE are some allegations about politicians to which the only reaction can be: is he really that stupid?

Into this category falls the claim that Tony Blair last week lobbied his Italian counterpart on behalf of Rupert Murdoch's £4bn attempt to buy the Berlusconi television empire.

Mr Blair's desire to keep on the right side of the owner of the Sun is well known. But to intervene so soon after Mr Murdoch's recent gracing of the front pages? That would display as much acumen as the BBC offering Messrs Hall and Shepherd a consultancy on March Of The Day after the Newcastle fi-

"It was Prodi who called Blair," a Downing Street spokesman is said to have snarled, "the case falls at the first hurdle." And maybe it does. But about Tony Blair's hankerings to meddle in industry, the case is rather stronger.

From the moment he became Labour leader four years ago, he has courted businessmen, and understandably so. Nothing would help exorcise memories of bad Old Labour, and its kneejerk hostility to enterprise, than their support.

Successful industrialists also were by definition dynamic, and, increasingly, classless - the very image of Blair's New Britain. And it is an affair not just of the head, but of the beart, born perhaps of naivete, perhaps of the instinctive affinity of members of the high achievers club, perhaps even of the romantic notion that in mutual admiration's golden glow, all Britain's ills would van-

And feelings were reciprocated. New Labour's courtship of the City of London dispelled ancient fears. Business liked Mr Blair's pleasant certainty of tone, his conciliatory language on Europe. They liked him for his knack of combining the lucrative and the visionary, as in the pre-election promise of BT linking every classroom to the global information highway (in return for a relaxation of the current ban on BT's moving into conventional, entertainment television). Above all, it liked him because he looked a winner. But since May, Mr Blair's interest in industry has only grown. Indeed, he shows signs of wanting not just to encourage it, but to shape it.

At one level, the reasoning is impeccable. You may quarrel with his thesis that in the post-Cold War world, where the market is king, the most powerful men on the planet are not heads of governments, but the chairmen of multi-national corporations, able to move their money and operations to where labour is cheapest and government most welcoming. But if that is the case, then a politician has little choice but to seek to win over these new emperors, and make sure that as many of them as possible owe their ultimate allegiance to

That philosophy was most visible in the recent SmithKline-Beecham/Glaxo affair.

There is little doubt that Downing Street encouraged the proposed merger, in the belief that if SKB carried out an earlier plan to link with a US competitor, it would be lost to America. Far better to endow



Just how good is Tony Blair at wooing industry?

Britain with a mighty drugs company that would dwarf its international competitors, Sir Richard Sykes of Glaxo contended. And not surprisingly, Mr Blair agreed. Good for Labour, he must have thought, and good for the country.

Of course, none of this is ex-

Britain a seat at the top table of the world's electrical indus-A press baron was around too: Cecil King, who as proprietor of the most important

Arnold Weinstock's efforts to

fuse English Electric, AEL, and

General Electric into a single

company that would give

Thirty years ago, another British tabloid of the day had

Tony Blair's interest in industry has grown since May, indeed, he shows signs of wanting not just to encourage it, but to shape it

Labour Prime Minister was vowing to modernise Britain. Back in those days the catchphrase wasn't "globalisation" but "the white heat of the technological revolution." Its author, Harold Wilson, was no less smitten with businessmen than Tony Blair, he backed to the hilt Labour, let alone Britain? The

to be kept on board (though in the end he jumped ship spectacularly). Thanks to globalisation, King's counterpart today comes from Australia. and carries a US passport (and may one day jump ship too).

But is it necessarily good for

spectacle of politicians cosying could yet contain the seeds of bank, rather than a Govern- and Glaxo fell through, and Ru up to businessmen raises three separate problems.

The first is that malign intersect of fundraising and influence-buying: Bernie Ecclestone's £1m donation to the Labour party "co-incided," as they say, with a notable change of Labour policy on tobacco advertising in Formula One. Then there is the age-old pitfall of cronyism.

Governments are not elected to favour one company among many, nor to give a particular entrepreneur the inside track over his rivals. Their job is to create a benign and equal environment for all.

Let the public sector use the skills and experience of businessmen by all means, and this Government has done so more than most, but not if, for argument's sake, the presence of Martin Taylor of Barclays at the head of the tax-and-benefits task force were to see any future merger of Barclays and NatWest judged not on its merits, but on the man.

And finally, even in this era of globalisation and the single currency, size may not be every-

Mr Blair may think so. But perhaps not his Chancellor. and certainly not Mrs Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, known in the City as 'Mrs Block-It' for her habit of referring every deal in sight to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

She believes that competition, at least as much as the huge economies of scale generated by oligopolistic megacorporations, produces the best deal for consumers.

ruinous internal strife for ment, he would have been out Labour if its industrial policy on his neck by now. goes wrong.

But there is one consolation. Tony Blair the deal maker is not so hot. Indeed, if he'd been head of the mergers and acquisitions department of a

BT's promise of the Internet in every classroom has not come

The merger of SmithKline

pert Murdoch isn't going to bu

an Italian TV network. Labour had to give back If this really was the Bank of Bernie Ecclestone his £1m. Great Britain PLC, and Tor Blair its Chief Executive, h would long since have picked a his golden severance cheque - Rubert Comw

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oven. They also have a wire rack so that, for a healthier, lower-fat cooking method, you can place your chosen meat on top of the rack and any excess fat will drain off during cooking. The oval reaster also has a dual s lid which can be used as an amactive serv dish. These traditional roasters will look st in any kitchen and are dishwasher safe an

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And the best-dressed actress award goes to...

The Oscars ceremony has become one of the biggest nights out, not for the stars and the silver screen but for the fashion industry.

Getting your dress on the backs of those stars is one of the greatest publicity stunts possible. Money cannot buy the sort of personal endorsement a star like Kate Winslet or Madonna gives when they are snapped by the world's cameras. And on Monday night the four 3ritish actresses nominated might not have won anything, but some of our fashion stars came out with Tying colours. Alexander McQueen for one. His was the coup of the night: a dragonfly embroidered gown by the designer for Givenchy. And Nicole Farhi scored ner first ever Oscar coup and should sign Judi Dench up for the next advertising campaing immediately. John Galliano dressed Cameron Diaz under his Dior label. So forget acting ability. All we were really interested n was the frocks, in the greatest catwalk show of all. Tamsin Blanchard and Melanie Rickey nominate the nost glamorous night's winners and the losers



Kate Winslet in Alexander McQueen for Givenchy. Full marks for supporting a British fashion export and putting her faith in a young designer. Kate went for a fitting for her deep sea-green gown with matching bolero with dragonflies and weeping willow branches, hand-embroidered in silk thread and crystals on the morning of McQueen's show for Givenchy two weeks ago. The final fittings were when the dress, the actress and the seamstresses came to McQueen's east London studio. Ms Winslet, who wore Vivienne Westwood to last year's Academy Awards, agreed to wear Givenchy on the understanding that the house did not make a dress for any other Oscar nominee. It fitted h immaculately. The glass-beaded bag by Antonio Miranda and shoes in embroidered silk matched.



ed lace dress by New York duo Badgley Mischka. The skirt has a hand-painted hem and is an adaptation of a dress from the pair's autumn/winter '98 collection. If Oscar night as a competition of style, Christie, 58, won hands down.



by Nicole Farhi. The Dame met the designer through Ms Farhi's husband, the playwright David Hare. Dench is currently starring in his play, "Amy's View". The 63-year-old star looked fabulously understated and elegant and avoided the mutton-dressed-as-lamb syndrome successfully. She also avoided the "everything-but-the-kitchen-sink" school of Oscar dressing. Full marks all round; every inch the star.



len Hunt wore an ice blue bustier dress Gucci. The colour was fresh and cool, ough it crinkled a lot. Previously, Hunt i been a fan of Isaac Mizrahi but the nerican designer's office denied the ess was his. "It would have fitted a lot tter if it had been by Mizrahi," they spat. lumpen, ill-fitting frump frock.



Kim Basinger wore a pistachio satin gown by Brian Rennie of German label Escada Couture, and ended up looking like a female version of the oscar statuette. All the illusions of her femme fatale image in "LA Confidential" were shattered in one



Sharon Stone attended the ceremony wearing every Hollywood movie star's favourite, Vera Wang. Her casual elegance shone out - how dever to wear a crisp white shirt wrapped insouciantly into a duchess satin evening skirt. Daring too, to reveal all that deavage.



oh why, on a warm Hollywood night, does anyone need to wrap a fox fur round her shoulders? Versace must accept responsi-



Helena Bonham Carter typically wore a dress without a designer label. It was a one-off from a costume-makers. She always looks painfully thin and this dress was hanging off her. But it had a certain fragile Audrey Hepburn-style charm and



Cher. The singer/actress has already gone down in the annals of Oscar-night mistakes but this one was a real corker, Imagine. You spend all that money on cosmetic surgery and hairpieces and you plonk a pirate's hat on top of it all!

Night when Titanic, not Britannia, ruled the waves

tic note to the Academy may crowd the streets of South Cenin order after this year's Oss - perhaps delivered from ure minister Chris Smith via promised new British film oft actresses was surely a disv of the cheapest American uvinism. And The Full Mondrowning by Titanic, with urly less than satisfactory. A major crisis was only nar-

American who took the best ess Oscar from under the e of the four British nomiesty Mrs Brown, she insistshe was convinced Dame Dench would get the Acad-Award. "And in my mind ght she has," she said, "And as Julie Christie, and so has ena Bonham Carter, and so Kate Winslet."

he full strangeness of the ars was on display on Monmeir televisions aglow but best editing and one for pro-

TERSELY worded diplo- occupants otherwise invisible, tral around the Shrine Auditorium. It is the night, after all. when people who dress up and pretend for a living do their best in Los Angeles. The collec- to persuade a world audience snub handed to Britain's that they are, by turns, tearful, ecstatic and lost for words.

In the end, Titanic's night of triumph fell strangely flat, though the film dominated the evening an Oscar for best score, was from the moment presenter Billy Crystal sank to the stage on a giant prow. "What a shock," ly averted by Helen Hunt, said Madonna, drily summing up the mood as she announced that "My Heart Will Go On", the theme tune sung by Celine Dion s. The first time she saw Her which has been virtually inescapable in America this spring,

had won best original song. Titanic scooped 11 of 17 possible Oscars, tying Ben Hur's record, and including one for Briton Peter Lamont, for art direction. As predicted, it cleaned up the production and technical awards and delivered two statuettes to director James night, when stretch limos. Cameron, for best director and

Tim Cornwell reports from Los Angeles on a disappointing night for Britain

ducer Jon Landau for best film. while its acting and writing were ignored. Notable by his absence was the male lead Leonardo DiCaprio, who is rapidly emerging as Hollywood's biggest heartthrob but failed to be even nominated for best actor.

Cameron, initially ridiculed for running the film hugely over-budget, now celebrated as one of the great Hollywood directors, asked for a moment's silence for a film based "on a Dutch director". "This ought to real event where real people died". Then he borrowed a line from his own script, crowing: "I am the king of the world! This is a night to remember. Let's party till dawn."

If it was any consolation to site tornadoes in Twister. She had

. 10

the British crowd, the ceremony seemed one of the duliest of recent years, devoid of much real excitement or drama. For an event that celebrates the young and the beautiful, it was curiously heavy with faces of the past, including a line-up of ancient Oscar winners that included Luise Rainer, 88, who won in 1936 for The Great Ziegfield.

Matt Damon and Ben Af-

fleck, two rising young actors who won for jointly writing the screenplay for Good Will Hunting, attended with their mothers. The best impromptu performance of the night came from Mike Van Diem, whose film Character won the Oscar for best foreign film, four days before it opens in the US. Drunk with delight, he introduced himself to Sharon Stone as "just another crazy

know, like damn stunning subtitles." he said from the stage. Helen Hunt, a celebrated US TV comedienne, took her first major film role starring oppo-

tell you that it probably has, you

emerged late in the game as the favourite for the comedy As Good as It Gets opposite Jack Nicholson, who took the Best Actor award.

British losers were gracious in defeat. Kate Winslet declared she was "not in the slightest" disappointed, though it is the second time - after her nomination for Sense and Sensibility - that Oscar has escaped her. "I'm just thrilled" to be here," said Dame Judi, who had won the Golden Globe that often signals Oscar success. "I have seen people I have only ever seen on the screen."

The Full Monty, with four nominations, was never favourite for best picture or best director. while a plagiarism suit, whatever its merits, may have hurt the chances of Simon Beaufoy for winning best screenplay. Only Ame Dudley, the composer, won an Oscar. "I think Hollywood really liked this movie, but they couldn't bring themselves to give it best picture with Titanic in the ring," she said. "I think they wanted to give it something and

Winners of the 70th Academy Awards

"Titanic" (20th Century Fox/Paramount) Best performance by an actor in a leading. Jack Nicholson in "As Good as It Gets" (TriStar)

Best performance by an actress in a leading Helen Hunt in "As Good as It Gets" (TriStar) Best director: James Cameron, "Titanic" (20th Century

Fox/Paramount) Best performance by an actor in a supporting role: Robin Williams in "Good Will Hunting" (Miramex)

Best performance by an actress in a supporting role: Kim Basinger in "LA. Confidential" (Warner Bros.) Best achievement in art directions "Titanic" Art direction Peter Lamont, Set direction:

Best achievement in costume design: "Tizanic." Deborah L. Scott ...---

"Men in Black" Rick Baker and David LeRoy Anderson Best live action short film: "Visas And Virtue." Chris Tashima and Chris Donahue

Best animated short film: "Gen's Game" jan Pinkava Best documentary short subject: "A Scory Of Healing." Donna Dewey and Carpi

"The Long Way Home." Rabbi Marvin Hier and Richard Trank Best achievement in visual effects:

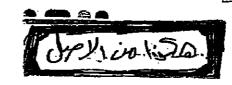
"Titanic." Robert Legato, Mark Lasoff, Thomas L. Fisher and Michael Kanfer Best achievement in sound: "Ticanic," Gary Rydstrom, Tom Johnson, Gary Summers and Mark Ulano

Best achievement in sound effects editing-"Titanic." Tom Bellfort and Christopher Boyes Best film editing: "Titznic" Conrad Buff, James Cameron and Richard A. Harris

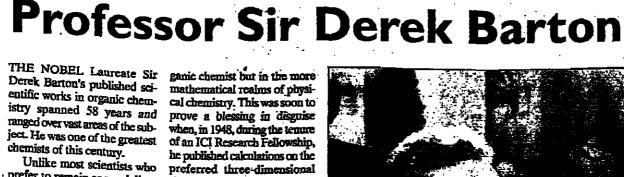
Best original dramatic score: "Titanic" James Homer Best original musical or cornedy score: The Full Monty." Anne Dudley Best original song: "My Heart Will Go On" from "Titanic." James

Homer and Will Jennings. Best foreign language film: "Character," the Netherlands (A First Floor Features production) Best adapted screenplay: "LA: Confidential." Brian Helgeland and Curtis

"Good Will Hunting." Ben Affleck and Matt Bast achievement in cinematography. "Titanic." Russell Carpenter



عبكتا من الاحل



prefer to remain as specialists, Barton had a mastery of both physical and organic chemistry enabled him to turn to new fields, moving between topics, using the information gained from one study and then applying it to another, and then returning with more new ideas to behind were always, of course, well ploughed by others.

He considered originality to be the most important quality. His advice to younger scientists was simply stated: "If you know, in the academic world, how to do a reaction you should not do it. You should only work on re- to the 1969 Nobel Prize for actions that are potentially important and that you do not know how to do."

Barton was educated at Tonbridge School in Kent, and, after deciding that he did not want to follow his father into the family carpentry business, he enrolled to read Chemistry at Imperial College, London, because "the fees were higher and therefore it had to be better". He was awarded the top first class honours BSc in 1940 and completed his PhD studies some two years later with Pro-point, frequent and silent forays fessor Sir Ian Heilbron. From 1942 to 1944, he was employed in secret wartime research and liked to hint that he developed a new range of invisible inks for use on human skin.

He was married in 1944 to year in the chemical industry with Albright and Wilson in Birmingham, he returned to Imperial College as assistant lec- Professor, for the next 20 years. turer. To his dismay, he was

prove a blessing in disguise when, in 1948, during the tenure of an ICI Research Fellowship, he published calculations on the preferred three-dimensional shape of an organic molecule.

His critical moment of insight came in the following and a breadth of interests which year when he was a visiting lecturer at Harvard and attended a seminar in Professor Louis Fieser's group where discussions centred around unusual reactions of steroids. He disagreed with the conventional explanathe first. The areas which he left tions, and recognised, because of his calculations, that there was an "obvious" relationship between the preferred shape of a molecule and its reactivity. His key paper on the subject, which came to be known as Conformational Analysis, was published in 1950 and led directly Chemistry, which he shared with the Norwegian physical chemist Odd Hassel

On his return to the UK he moved to Birkbeck College. London, first as Reader and then, at the early age of 35, as Professor. In 1955, Barton was invited to become Regins Professor of Chemistry at Glasgow University, where space was at a premium and he was installed in a glass partitioned office within his own research laboratory. From this excellent viewwere made into the surrounding laboratory to startle his coworkers and enquire after the results of "our latest experiment".

The stay in Glasgow lasted only 18 months, however. The sudden death of Professor A.E. Jeanne Wilkins and, after one Braude precipitated his recall to bis Alma Mater, and he was then to remain at Imperial College, ultimately as Hofmann

During the Fifties, he was



Barton, left, receiving the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in Oslo in 1969

the steroid.

natural products of plant and animal origin but he recognised the advent of new spectroscopic machines would soon make this a routine pursuit. He began to pursue "The Invention of New Chemical Reactions" as his intellectual challenge. These were to prove his preoccupation for almost another 40 years, and led

His original approach can be illustrated by a reaction now known as the Barton Nitrite Photolysis. It was unusual since it used light as the energy source at a time when most orrequired to teach, not as an or- also preoccupied with ehici- ganic chemists were using heat,

to extraordinary productivity.

species called "free radicals" were involved, while the traditional organic synthesis of the day was firmly rooted in the use of positively and negatively charged intermediates. Most importantly, it provided a methdosterone at a time when the world supply from natural sources was only a few milligrams. The power of the new reaction was demonstrated at a lecture when Barton produced a bottle containing 60 grams of

Free radicals were also used in a theory called phenolic ox- ton shocked the UK scientific rhythm of life. Visiting speak- dards, so that research discus-

dating the detailed structure of and also remarkable because idative coupling which explained how complex stuctures such as morphine could be made inside plants. His "retreat and return" philosophy can be seen again in the Barton-McCombie free radical deoxygenation (1975) which was used to modify antibiotics od for preparing the steroid al- and in the radical reagents called Barton Esters (1983). In these "firsts" and a host of other areas such as fluorination, Vitamin D chemistry, or penicillins, Barton made major contributions which would be the

The years in Gif were exsingle high point in the careers tremely creative, and he adof most other organic chemists. In the summer of 1977, Bar-

ers at the Institut were treated to sumptuous three-hour lunches prepared by Christiane, beginning with champagnes and ending with Sauternes, His coworkers invited to lunch could have problems when they returned to the lab at 3_30pm for another five hours' work.

This period also saw Barton hegin to tackle his last great scientific challenge - the oxidation of saturated hydrocarbons. The problem here lies in converting basic petroleum products such as methane into feedstock for the fine chemical industry. Yet again, drawing inspiration from the chemical reactions occurring in nature, and thinking about the atmosphere of a primordial earth, he invented the Gif Oxidation, a combination of air, iron nowder, hydrogen sulphide, vinegar and a dash of pyridine - and it worked.

In 1986, at the age of 68, and faced again by the prospect of an unwanted retirement. he made his final move and accepted an invitation to become Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Texas A and M University, where he relished the competition of the American funding system.

Following the death of his wife Christiane in 1992, he married Judith Cobb and, from the home provided by Judy, and the two dogs on whom he doted, he continued to travel on the international science scene at a pace which would be the envy of those only half his age.

Derek Barton had a complex personality. The public persona presented in scientific meetings was of a rather forbidding figure, and his scientific rigour meant that he was always the first to ask probing questions after a lecture. Though he mellowed over the years, many of his colleagues were somewhat in awe of him, and found it hard justed easily to the French to live up to his demanding stan-

sions were often conducted on a polite and formal level.

In social gatherings, too, he was a little uncomfortable and keen to escape. To those who knew him well however, and with whom he could relax, an entirely different personality was revealed. At these times, he had a great sense of fun, loving to tell stories of people and places and revealing a surprisingly catholic range of interests in unsuspected areas such as literature and music. He was intensely proud of the world-wide family of his former colleagues and, as a "godfather", he always wished to help them.

Barton liked to set himself new targets - and to meet them. One of these, made over 10 years ago, was to publish 1,000 research papers before the age of 80, and in this, he surpassed his goal: a remarkable achievement from a remarkable man.

William B. Motherwell Derek Harold Richard Barton, chemist: born Gravesend, Kent 8 September 1918; Assistant Lecturer, Department of Chemistry, Impenal College 1945-46, ICI Research Fellow 1946-49; Reader in Organic Chemistry, Birkbeck College 1950-53, Professor of Organic Chemistry 1953-55; FRS 1954; Regius Professor of Chemistry, Glasgow University 1955-57; FRSE 1956; Professor of Organic Chemistry, Imperial College 1957-70, Hofmann Professor of Organic Chemistry 1970-78, Emeritus Professor of Organic Chemistry, London University 1978-98; Nobel Prize for Chemistry (jointly with Odd Hassel) 1969; Kt 1972; Director, Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles, CNRS 1977-85; Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Texas A and M University 1986-95, Dow Distinguished Professor of Chemical Invention 1995-98; married 1944 Jeanne Wilkins (one son; marriage dissolved), 1969 Christiane Cognet (died 1992), 1993 Judith Cobb; died College Station, Texas 16

Museveni

Sir Matthew Campbell

THE LAST Secretary of the old Department of Agriculture for Scotland who became the first head in 1962 of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Matthew Campbell was an austere and extremely competent civil servant. However, his claim to lasting fame was his work from 1951 to 1954 as Secretary of the Taylor Committee which created the Crofters' Commission.

Campbell worked well with Sir Thomas Murray Taylor, at that time the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Aberdeen University, a distinguished King's Counsel who had been asked by James Stuart, Churchill's incoming Secretary of State for Scotland, to chair an enquiry whose terms of reference were to review crofting conditions in the Highlands and Islands with special reference to the secure establishment iess the Dalai Land of a smallholding population, making full use of agricultural resources and deriving the maximum economic benefit therefrom.

In a position of considerable power from 1953 until he retired in 1968, Campbell did more than anybody else to implement the recommendations of the Crofter's Commission which

transformed the Highlands. Marthew Campbell was born in High Blantyre into a family of teachers. He went to Hamilscholarly school specialising in glect and improvident man-



Classics, and on to Glasgow University. Entering the Civil Service in 1928, he went first to the Inland Revenue and after a short spell at the Admiralty to the Department of Agriculture, which he was to serve for the next third of a century.

Taylor and Campbell realised that the crofters were members of their own community and that apart from special difficulties shared to the full the general disabilities which afflicted so disastrously the remote communities in the Highlands and Islands. All were affected by the "evil results" which flowed from the wasteful exploitation of natural resources by land and sea, from deforestation and ton Academy, then a famous soil erosion, from years of ne-

munications and the terrible had an innate sympathy. cost of every form of transport.

likely to be dissipated by any

magical remedy or in a short space of time. If the process of decay was to be arrested and reversed it would require a serious political decision that these crofting communities should not be allowed to perish and a settled policy well conceived and resolutely maintained for many years. Above all Campbell, both at the time of the report and later as head of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, faced up to the fact that a substantial expenditure of public money was required. As a young MP, I marvelled

at how skilful the Department of Agriculture was at getting a huge share of public money out of my first three Secretaries of State: Jack Mackay, Michael Noble and Willie Ross. If anybody could get money it was Campbell. Sir Alec Cairneross, one of the Government's most important post-war economic advisers, recalls his competence as a committee secretary and his subtle sense of humour. I believe it was an astrate tolerance of the ridiculous that helped the somewhat formidable no-

employment with resulting de-effectively with the Highlanders, come within the purview of the population, from poor com- with whose real problems he commission; notification of all

These conditions were not a great diversity of conditions: that crofts then vacant and crofting communities, but outside this common area there are surprising dif-ferences between one district and anadjacent island and another. At one end of the scale there are the moribund communities of the north-western seaboard, at the other the new and prosperous holdings in the Black Isle. In some parts of the west the old

people, sole survivors of a once flourishing township, passed their de-clining years watching the tilled land going back to reeds and rushes, ile in Orkney the virgin soil is being brought back under the plough at the rate of eight to nine bundred acres every year, and in Shetland young men back from the whale-fishing in the Antarctic look in vain for holdings in which they can many and settle down.

There is the island of Lewis, with

poor peaty soil covering the Archaean Gneiss, with a crowded, lively, vivid community, and the vast empty island of Mull with much better land and great areas of understocked pasture.

Campbell wrote beautifully. The recommendations were constructive - a Crofters' Commission, responsible to the Secretary of State and endowed with adequate financial and executive powers; active use of crofting counties; the promotion 7 March 1998.

agement. All suffered a lack of nonsense Campbell to deal so of land settlement schemes to vacancies in crofts and power The Taylor Committee found for the commission to ensure crofts falling vacant in the future were relet in a way best calculated to promote the interests of the crofting community; discretionary power to terminate the tenancy of any crofting tenant who did not ordinarily reside on or within two miles of the holding, dispossession of an absentee tenant; houses occupied by old people who had few charters excused the valuation role; and power for the Crofters' Commission to frame a scheme for the reorganisation of any township which had

> Campbell's memorial is a Scottish Highlands with a new life breathed into it.

fallen into decay.

Tam Dalyeil

Matthew Campbell, civil servant: born High Blantyre, Lanarkshire 23 May 1907; Principal, Department of Agriculture for Scotland 1938-43, Assistant Secretary 1943-53, Under-Secretary 1953-58, Secretary 1958-62, Secretary. Department Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland 1962-68; CB 1959; KBE 1963; married 1939 Isabella Wilson land settlement powers in the (died 1977; two sons); died Edinburgh

W. L. Guttsman

W. L. GUTTSMAN was appointed founding Chief Li- es, published in books and pawith remarkable speed, and

Photograph: Hulton Getty

establishment by announcing

that, since he did not wish to re-

tire at 65, he would move to the

village of Gif-sur-Yvette near

Paris as Director of the Institut

de Chimie des Substances Na-

turelies, a world-renowned cen-

trepiece of the French CNRS

research system. His selection

of France was made, not only

because of his love of fine

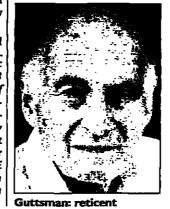
French wines and cheeses, but

also for his French second wife.

Christiane Cognet, whom he

had married in 1969.

the London School of Eco-style and connoisseurship. nomics, while working there as a library assistant in 1946, and his published books range from The British Ruling Class, which he edited in 1969, to his histories The German Social Democratic Party 1875-1933 (1981) and Worker's Culture in Weimar Germany (1990) and his Art for the Workers, published last year.



brarian of the University of pers, he opened up a new aspect East Anglia at Norwich in 1964. of art history. He combined his He created a teaching collection knowledge of German social Holocaust, and then, after ardemocracy with his unrivalled riving in England alone at the age one which soon aspired even to knowledge of the visual arts the level of scholarly research. (much of it ephemeral) that Willi Guttsman was more served left-wing political ends. It than a librarian, however, he is an important contribution to was a scholar. He had taken a the "New Art History", no longer part-time degree in Sociology at restricted to the mere study of

> culture in the widest sense, but perhaps especially for the visual arts, including architecture. He provided crucial support in attempts to persuade the Senate of UEA to allocate funds for a collection of works of art, and heroically defended the university architect, Denys Lasdun, when lesser voices were raised in criticism. He collected works of art too, usually from artists he knew personally, selected with a discerning eye for quality.

Guttsman had a passion for

Willi Guttsman and I had much in common - we went to the same school in Berlin, we both came to England as refugees from Germany before the Second World War, and we both loved the arts. However, it was not until I read an interview he gave to the Eastern Daily Press on the publication of his last book that I discovered that he had suffered in a concentration

In his most recent researchcamp before his parents managed to get an emigration visa for him to enter England, that he had lost both his parents in the of 19, been interned as an enemy alien and sent to Australia. He accepted these trials philosophically, without any bitterness.

His inborn reticence prevented discussion of such deeply personal matters. Even when, on rare occasions. I attempted to exchange a word or two in German, he never responded indeed, when I met him by chance on the S-bahn in Berlin. where he was pursuing his researches for his last book, he replied in English.

It was only in that last book he allowed himself the revealing dedication "To Valerie and Janet". Willi Guttsman's pride in his wife's Lord Mayorship of Norwich and her contribution to the life of the city as a psychiatric social worker, and his daughter's professional success as a Reuter correspondent. typically remained unspoken.

Peter Lasko

William Leo Guttsman, librarian: born Berlin 23 August 1920; Chief Librarian, University of East Anglia 1964-85; married 1942 Valerie Lichtig (one daughter); died Norwich I3 February 1998.

BIRTHS

ng Sam Sun Kri

re Ramos Horla

anderstein betreiten.

BARNES: On 21 March, to Jeremy and Camilla (nee Vignoles), a son, Oscar Benjamin Vignoles, a brother for Joshua and Sastia.

Joshus and Sastra.

KING: To Anthony and Breeds, a daughter, Megan, on 24 March 1998. All love and best wishes from Namy and Grandad, Tony and Brends King, and from the great-grandparents Eddie and Sheils King. grandparents Eddie and Shetta and Walter and Elsie D'Cruze.

DEATHS
COLLISTON: Father James, of the Society of Jesus. On 19 March 1998 in London, aged 85. Requiem Mass at Farm Street Church, London W1, on Friday 27 March at 2pm.
JOHNSTON: On 23 March, Kenneth Johnston OC, dear husband of the late Priscilla Johnston and dear father of William, Catherine; Lucy and Mary, of Street, Somerset. Burial and Mocing for Worship, 3pm on Saturday 28 March at Friends' Meeting House, Street, Somerset.

Street, Somerset. MONKMAN: Kenneth MacKay, aged 86 years, of Shandy Hall, Conwold, co 22 March, after a short illness. Hus-band of Julia and father of Francis James and Kit. Funeral service Con-wold Parish Church Friday 27 March at Ilam. Memorial service to be held

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

in due course. No flowers by request. Donations to Laurence Sterne Hust. POOLE-WILSON: On 22 March, peacefully at home, Deans Smith Poole-Wilson CBE FRCS, aged 93 years. Wildower of Monique, devoted father Nicholas and Philip, father in-law of Rae and Mary and grandfather of Peter, Alexander, William, Michael and Cenone. Foneral at Berwick St. James Church on 30 March at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to Friends of Christie Hospital, co H.A. Harrold & Sons, 77 Estcourt Road, Salisbury SP1 3AX.

onts for BIRTHS, MAR-Announcements for BHK1 PS, PARTHER RIAGES & DEATH'S should be sent in RIAGES & DEATH'S should be sent in writing to the Gazette Edizor, The Independent, ! Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EM 3DL, telephoned to 0771-293 2012 or faced to 0771-293 2010 or faced at 64.50 2 line 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line

Birthdays

Shane Blewitt, former Keeper of the Privy Purse, 63; Mr Humphrey Bur-ton, writer and broadcaster, 67; Sir Kenneth Carlisle, former MP, 57; Mr Lawrence Cunliffe MP, 69; Mr Stephen Dorrell MP, 46; Professor Mary Douglas, anthropologist, 77; Professor Sir Raymond Firth, anthropologist, 97; Mr Ronald Flana-gan, Chief Constable, RUC. 49; Professor Sir Patrick Forrest, surgeon,

Miss Aretha Franklin, soul singer, 56; Sir Peter Gibbings, former chairman, Anglia TV, 69; Mr John Giffard, Chief Constable, Smffordahire, 46; Mr Paul Michael Glaser, actor, 54; General Sir James Glover, former Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces, 69; Mr David Hicks, interior designer, 69; Sir Elton John, rock or obstance, 51, The Most Rev Alwyn Rice Iones, Archbishop of Wales, 64; Mr Nick Lowe, rock performer and composer, 49, Sir Bernard Miller, former chairman, John Lewis Partner-ship, 94; Mr Lelf Mills, general secretary, Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, 62; Lord Quinton, former chairman of the Board, British Library, 73; Ms Christine Rus-sell MP, 53; Miss Dorothy Squires, singer, 83; Mr William Taylor, Commissioner, City of London Police, 51; Lord Walker of Worcester, former MP, 65; Mr Michael Whitlam, Director-General, British Red Cross Society, 51; Mr Keith Whitson, chief executive, Midland Bank, 55.

LAW REPORT: 25 MARCH 1998 Sir Brian Bailey, former chairman, Television South West, 75; Major Sir

Manslaughter by omission requires duty to act

Regina v Khan and another; Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, Mr Justice Rix and Mr justice Astill) 18 March 1998

IN ORDER for a person to be convicted of manslaughter by omission, it was necessary to show that he had owed a duty to the deceased to act.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeals of Rungzabe their convictions of manslaughter at Birmingham Crown Court. They had also been convicted of offences of supplying drugs and of possession with intent to supply, and had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to prevent the burial of a dead

The deceased was a 15-

ers, had supplied her with a that it was open to the jury to quantity of heroin. It was probably the first time she had taken the drug. She had snorted through her nose and swallowed an amount which was 10 times the therapeutic dose and twice the amount likely to be Prosecution Service) for the Crown. taken by an experienced user.

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas She had begun to cough and splutter and had gone into a coma, being obviously in need Khan and Tahir Kahn against of medical attention. The appellants had left the flat, leaving the girl alone. They had returned the next day to find her dead, and had dumped her body on some waste ground. They were charged with

murder, but, at the close of the prosecution case, the judge had upbeld a defence submission that no reasonable jury year-old prostitute. She had could conclude that either apgone to a flat where the ap- pellant had possessed the req- sure that the defendant was edly enlarge the class of

pellants, who were drug deal- uisite intent, and had ruled criminally responsible for the persons to whom, on previous convict of manslaughter by Ballir Singh (Registrar of Criminal Ap-

peals) for Rumgabe Khan; Peter Carr (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Tahir Khan; John Mitting QC (Crown

said that the judge had put the case on the basis that the appellants could be convicted of manslaughter if they had set in train a chain of events which had given rise to a risk of harm to the deceased. It was important to bear in mind that the actus reus relied on by the Crown was not the supply of heroin but the omission to

summon medical assistance. Before a jury could convict of manslaughter, they had to be killing. In Airedale National Health Trust v Bland [1993] AC 789 Lord Mustill had stressed that in order to be criminally responsible for the consequences of an omission a person must stand "in such a relation to the victim that he is under a duty to act".

The Crown had submitted that the present case was a "duty case", and that the judge had so decided. He had, however, clearly done no such thing. He had made no ruling as to whether the facts were capable of giving rise to the relevant duty and had not directed the jury in relation to that issue. To extend the duty to summon medical assistance to a drug dealer who supplied heroin to a person who subse-

quently died would undoubt-

authority, such a duty must be In the present case the summing up on manslaughter by

omission had been flawed and inappropriate. If the Crown alleged manslaughter by omission on facts such as those in the present case, the appropriate course would be to leave to the jury the following questions: whether a duty of care was owed by the defendant to the deceased: whether there had been a breach of that duty: whether the breach had caused the death; and whether the breach of duty should be characterised as gross negligence and therefore as a criminal act.

But for the reasons given the conviction for manslaughter must be quashed,

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

INDEPENDENT

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Clinton's vision of a new Africa

WHEN Bill Clinton flies into Cape Town tomorrow to meet Nelson Mandela, two of the world's more charismatic statesmen will have the opportunity to examine one of the world's more intractable problems. How can we lift Africa from the bottom of the economic heap and liberate it from the violence, despotism and famine that have haunted it for too long? Both men share a vision of a new Africa. As President Clinton put it to his audience in Ghana: "One hundred years from now your grandchildren and mine will look back and say this was the beginning of an African Renaissance"- a resonant phrase borrowed from the ANC itself.

It may well take a century to see democratic lion-economies roaring out of Africa. Even so, for a continent that has long been written off as an economic and political basket-case it was a bold statement. What now must Clinton and the West - and Africans themselves - do to stimulate the re-birth of the continent?

The first thing is to recognise that Africa is not a homogenous mass. True there are still states where the familiar post-independence mix of onepartyism, endemic corruption and brutality retains its grip. But parts of Africa are emerging from this model as surely, painfully and slowly they escaped from colonialism. Cruel and capricious "presidents for life' like Amin of Uganda, Banda of Malawi and Mobutu of Zaire have gone. They were propped up by the West in the Cold War era when America's allies were chosen by their hostility to the Soviet Union and their willingness to do what the CIA wanted.

Africa is no longer used as a proxy battlefield by the old superpowers. Apartheid is over. The peoples of half of sub-Saharan Africa's 48 nations now chose their own governments. Old-style leaders like former President Nyerere of Tanzania and President Moi of Kenya want to resist what they call "Coca-Cola style democracy" being imposed on Africa. Quite right. When the British left behind Westminster-style parliaments complete with maces, speakers and wigs they did not long survive as more than dignified curiosities. There can be no question of imposing constitutions. Equally there can be no hiding behind one-partyism as the only way to manage ethnic conflict.

There are new and hopeful exemplars in Africa. It was no accident that Clinton chose to go to a country like Uganda. President Museveni does not run a Scandinavian-style perfect democratic regime. What he has worked for is to give his long-suffering people a degree of stability without resorting to the worst despotic excesses of his predecessors. In Uganda one sees the beginnings of the freedoms that ensure stability and a political system that accommodates ethnicity and does not exploit it - the rule of law, protection of minorities, freedom of the press and so on. Despite its move to multi-party democracy the intimidation witnessed in the recent elections shows that Kenya still falls far short of the progress of its smaller neighbour.

The Kenyan High Commissioner in London said on television that he didn't care that Clinton hadn't chosen to drop in on Nairobi. Don't you believe it. It hurts. What also hurts is the embargo on aid to Kenya. That is why it stands and should continue. It is also a reason why the West needs to turn its attention to the logical corollary of this approach and look at large scale debt cancellation for countries where the beginnings of good governance are providing the underpinnings for economic growth.

Far away from Gaberone, Cape Town and Kampala the West will soon have an opportunity to extend its initiative beyond pure diplomacy. Next month our own Gordon Brown will tell the World Bank/IMF summit in Washington, and the G7 meeting that follows it in Birmingham in May, about his proposal to relieve debt and poverty in Africa. It will involve transferring some of the burden of debt from those nations least able to bear it to the bigger developing economies. The West has demonstrated what can be done with political will when it came to assisting the economies of the former Soviet Union and, most recently, the far east. As of this week the serious debate on what can be done to help Africa has really begun. President Clinton must now match the excellent pace he has set in the diplomatic field and lead the West in lending urgency to rescuing a too-long neglected and misunderstood continent.

Blair the lobbyist?

ENFIN, un chef de gouvernment anglais qui parle le français! Mais rappellezvous, nos chers français, ce que le petit caporal nous a appellés une nation de commerçants. Ce matin nous nous demandons: ce M Blair, est-il vraiment notre premier ministre ou - déguisé - un espèce de négociant, un agent d'influence étrangère, le délégué d'une société privée, l'enterprise internationale gérée par Rupen Murdoch.

Yet it's not the French who need to beware but the Italians. The Eurolines buzz with reports that the British prime minister has been lobbying Romano Prodi on behalf of Murdoch Enterprises Inc. Could it be that Mr Blair is moonlighting as a lobbyist? There will be those, especially in France, who will say: this is what British membership of the European Union amounts to. It confirms that Charles de Gaulle was right all along and all we are is a kind of Trojan Horse for American interests.

Downing Street denies there is anything in the story that Mr Blair wooed Mr Prodi. Media ownership is a touchy subject in modern Italian politics and there can be few who think substituting Murdoch for Berlusconi would constitute an increase in pluralism. The Prodi government has enough on its hands, what with getting Italy fit for EMU, without having to counter allegations that it is permitting foreign meddling.

As for Mr Blair, let us hope that, if Murdoch asked him to intervene, he had the good sense to say no. To sit on his hands while Rupert Murdoch pursues a predatory pricing policy in newspaper markets in this country is one thing. But for the prime minister of the United Kingdom to tout on Murdoch's behalf abroad would be of a shockingly different order of magnitude. | Cambridge



Fees for students

ANDREAS Whittam Smith's "Confessions of a student in the golden era" (24 March) play into the hands of those who would happily turn education into an entirely commercial business rather than viewing it as part of a national strategy. He also reveals a touching naïvety.

Many of us who went to university without having to pay directly to do so understood perfectly well where the money for our education came from. It was provided because the nation recognised it needed a skilled workforce of trained graduates - to govern, to build infrastructure, to make sick people well, and to develop goods for export. My with the same income, may be pay- by the old school of citizenship. fellow students and I studied how to ing very different loan repayments design vital new homes, schools and hospitals, while our colleagues were similarly training in engineering, science or medicine. The money was found so we could learn how to create national wealth and improve the Brasenose College, Oxford quality of life.

Our student grants may have covered the basics of sharing a student flat in a Liverpool back street, but our lifestyles were hardly luxurious. Meanwhile, many of our contemporaries were already earning their own income, marrying, buying homes and starting families, while we deferred those ambitions to complete our training. We were willing to do so in the belief that we would be compensated later through higher than average earnings. But we also understood that we would then pay more income tax which, in turn, would be used (in part) for our universities to educate

future generations. These notions of national goals and inter-generational relationships seem to have been lost in arguments about costs and benefits to the individual, and Andreas Whittam Smith's confessions about his own limited motives in going to university do little to remind us of the bigger picture. SEBASTIAN MACMILLAN

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

THE letter from Diana Warwick (23 March) demonstrates, perhaps unintentionally, just how unfair and poorly thought-out the new system of higher education funding will be. Repayments on a loan will indeed depend on the graduate's personal circumstances - but the amount to be repaid will depend on the parents' income.

How can it possibly be acceptable that two colleagues in their thirties, because of their parents' relative Macclesfield, Cheshire prosperity 15 years earlier? IAN JOHNSTON

College Lecturer in Engineering

Models of citizenship

I COULDN'T agree more that we need "citizenship for a new generation" (leading article, 24 March). Unfortunately, the models of citizenship currently running for candidacy are usually far from suitable.

It is an over-expressed fallacy that the youth of today has no interest in politics. This misconception leads to the inevitable next step of questioning how we can encourage our young citizens to become politically active; to vote, stand for council and use all the traditionally accepted avenues for

expression of active citizenship. Why is it that politicians and educationists cannot see that whilst they ask themselves these questions in stuffy offices, our young citizens are out there actively engaging in a new kind of politics? A "globalised" world is offering new opportunities to become politically active in ways which are no longer by necessity tied to the structure of the nation state or formal politics. For example, environmental dangers and a growing demand-for some form of standardisation of human rights, offer communities and individuals an opportunity to act locally on global imperatives.

ations to act out their displeasure with the political, social and economic systems they witness around them. They already demonstrate youthful energy and political responsibility, albeit in a form not readily recognised

Cook was right

THE coverage of the Foreign Secretary's visit to Jerusalem has been a depressing demonstration of the extent to which the basic issues at the heart of the Israel/Palestinian conflict remain obscured by Israel's success in setting the terms of debate. Can we remind ourselves of just a few facts?

First, the acceptance by the Palestinians of a two-state solution to the conflict is itself a massive compromise on their part - Israel is built on what was Palestinian territory, with millions of refugees from that territory, and their dependants, now scattered around the world and Benjamin Netanyahu's government adamant that they will not be allowed to return.

Second, the United Nations, in line with international law, considers the land acquired by force in 1967 to be occupied territory, and the Israeli settlements built there illegal. Third, the Oslo Accords signed

by the government of Israel expressly prohibit further settlementbuilding, pending a final agreement by the parties to the conflict.

In the light of this, and much more. Robin Cook's actions on behalf of the European Union in visiting a settlement site and shaking the hand of an elected Palestinian representative is

surely a welcome (if small) gesture of fairness towards a people who are continuing to pay very dearly for what

It is this wider agenda that pro-Jewish people during the 20th cenvides the forum for younger genertury. If a genuine and lasting resoludeal more - are essential. Dr SARA MacKIAN

Deputy General Secretary Scottish Trades Union Congress

BILLSPIERS

Church investment

I WONDER whether Bishop Belo of East Timor would share the Church Commissioners' view (report, 23 March) that it is acceptable for the Church of England to invest in companies such as British Aerospace, whose sale of weapons to the Indonesian government has contributed to the slaughter of so many Timorese people, just because they also man-

Europeans, not Palestinians, did to the

tion of the conflict is to be achieved,

which is in the interests of the Israeli

people as much as anyone, then ac-

tions such as Mr Cook's - and a good

ufacture commercial aeroplanes? Aaron Kataria's spurious explanation that the Commissioners' concern is that their investments are not made in companies who are "wholly or mainly in [the defence] business" is morally indefensible. Did they not bother to read BAe's 1996 Annual Report, which stated that 60 per cent of their previous year's manufacturing was of military equipment? JAMES SAVAGE

I WAS interested to read that none of the Church of England investors in arms firms said that they intended to use their influence as shareholders to persuade the firms to make ploughshares instead. CHRIS TOLLEY Basingstoke, Hampshire

London SW6

TV sports coverage

SPORT on television arouses strong emotions and the reaction of some to the publication of the Report of the Advisory Group on Listed Events. which I chaired, may have aroused unnecessary fears among sports lovers who are not subscribers to cable or satellite channels (report, 21 March).

Before appointing the Advisory Group, the Secretary of State consulted widely on the criteria to be taken into account in deciding whether or not to list an event. In order to be eligible for listing, an event must meet the following main criterion:

the event has a special national resonance, not simply a significance to those who or-dinarily follow the sport concerned; it is an event which serves to unite the nation;

Test cricket, whatever its importance, can hardly be described as a shared point on the national calendar – it is virtually a shared summer - and it is difficult to apply different criteria to premier league football and Test cricket.

The B list actually creates much more protection for the average viewer than was previously available. I accept that secondary coverage - limited live coverage, delayed as-live transmission or edited highlights - is not as good as full live coverage but it does represent a considerable improvement on the current position where, if an event is not listed, the non-satellite viewer is not guaranteed coverage.

Much greater protection will be afforded to the average viewer if the Secretary of State decides to endorse our recommendations. Lord GORDON of Strathblane

House of Lords, London SW1

Through the looking-glass

COULD Lewis Carroll have invented a situation where, according to recent advertisements, you can save £100 a year by buying your electricity from gas companies and another £100 by buying your gas from electricity companies? JIM TATCHELL Wokingham, Berkshire

What's the funniest part of the joke: the words, the timing, or the lack of laughter?



THERE has been a small exchange of correspondence recently in this paper about the famous though perhaps not very wellknown Jack Benny radio sketch in which a mugger stops the notoriously mean comedian Jack Benny and says "Your money or your life" and the notoriously mean Jack Benny says nothing and the mugger says, "Well?" and the notoriously mean Jack Benny says, "I'm thinking, I'm think-

ing!", or words to that effect. What the correspondents were arguing about, I think, was why it was so funny was the line funny? was the silence funny? was it a sketch or a one-liner? - and I am in the odd position that I should be able to settle all arguments, because I have actually heard that Jack Benny sketch. I don't mean I heard it when it first went out, which was in the 1930s, some while before I was born, but that I heard it when I visited the Museum of Broadcasting in New York a few years ago. This is where is so mean that... Why, I was having din- what came across on this old clip was some-

historic moon walks, the great shows of yesteryear, blah blah blah, but where they also keep the great moments of radio. Now, I am just about old enough to re-

member the first great radio stars, if only from the era when they were being turned into aged TV stars - my Dad was always watching the Jack Berny Show, and George Burns and Gracie Allen, and Bob Hope. and Vic Oliver, and I watched along with him - so I do feel some link with that golden age. I know that Vic Oliver played the violin badly and spoke English curiously. I know that Jack Benny also played the violin badly and in addition was mean, and had a black valet named Rochester. Indeed, I knew about Jack Benny's Rochester before I had ever heard of the Brontes' Rochester...

So even when young I could understand the joke when Bob Hope said: "Jack Benny is the meanest man I know. That man waiter brought the check, he tried to hide in the toilet! But I wouldn't let him in..."

Funny, eh? Well, it was funny back then. But this explains why I do remember being told about this famous moment when the mugger stopped Jack Benny and said, "Your money or your life!", so when they said to me at the Museum of Broadcasting that I could choose a clip from the past, any clip I liked, I ignored things like the Kennedy assassination and went straight for that one. I had heard about it so much and yet I had never actually heard it.

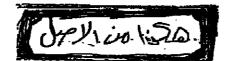
And sure enough they had it, and I listened to it, and it was much as you might imagine, apart from the extra crackles. The robber did stop Jack Benny and did suggest a choice between life and money and Jack Benny did pause an awful long time and made it clear he couldn't make up his mind which was more important, his life or his money, which is a very funny idea, but

about and which came as a dreadful shock: the audience didn't laugh much at it. Sure, there was a bit of a titter, but no belly laugh, no chorus of roaring, no sign that this was one of the great moments of radio. Just a slight, polite ripple of chuckles. Here was this great comedy moment and all those who were privileged to be there didn't know it was a great comedy moment. It was like being transported back into the Globe Theatre by a time machine to see a Shakespeare play and discovering that everyone was eating nuts and flirting, and nobody listening.

Maybe that's part of the reason that radio comedies these days so rarely have live audiences. Television comedies very often still have audiences, but then TV comedy is much more old-fashioned than radio comedy. Radio has learnt how to be funny without an audience. The chunk of comedy that appears on Radio 4 on Wednesday nights under the title of Late Night Opening is a good example. There are three prothey keep all the famous TV moments, the ner with him the other night, and when the thing which nobody had ever told me grammes involved. "Armstrong and

Miller", "The World of Pub", and "Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue", and only the last-named has an audience. Well, being a pastiche of a chat show, I suppose it has to. But the other two move so fast and are so intricate that an audience would only get in the way.

All three are pretty funny, funnier than most TV comedy, but "The World of Pub". which I have only just discovered, is something else - breathtakingly inventive, quickthinking, allusive and so fast to bounce off its own references that an audience reaction would only get in the way. It's written by someone called Tony Roche. I don't know who Tony Roche is, but if ever someone comes to him and says, "You've got a really funny show there. Tony - why don't we try and get it on TV?", I hope he turns round and says, "Forget it. TV's not ready for a REALLY fast show. Besides, we'd probably have to have an audience on TV and they might not laugh and how would that sound in the Museum of Broadcasting?"



عيكذا من الاجل

What the Arts Council could learn from the Medicis



ANNE MCELVOY **BUSINESS ACUMEN** IN THE ARTS

SO THE Arts Council is about to be massacred by its new chairman, Gerry Robinson; "a shark in a Val Doonican pullover", muttered one disgruntled member, proving that whatever their other shortcomings, they mix their metaphors very creatively in the of the downsizer down on the necks of quite world of arts funding. Mr Robinson is one of those people with a talent for producing invective in others. John Cleese famously sent a fax to him at Granada television after he replaced the head of the channel with an accountant, "F*** off out of it you ignorant upstart caterer."

Mr Robinson's reply went unrecorded. He could have pointed out upstart entrepreneurs have always been the bedrock of the arts. from the Medicis to the Rothschilds, the Tates and the Saatchis. So far, Mr Robinson's most bloody-thirsty suggestion has been that the 23-strong council should be slimmed down and replaced by a Council of 10. Anyone who has tried to reach agreement on anything with a body of over 10 people on will sympathise with his instinct. It is perfectly good practice, in arts administration as in business, to trim central councils, which tend, like the universe, to expand infinitely.

But the hollering has been predictably robust. The Earl of Clancarty, a powerful member of the Council saw in it "another symptom of the Government stacking arts areas with business and management peoand are only interested in financial efficiency". This, you may have noticed, is an almost exact inversion of Gerald Kaufman's brusque summary of his hopes for the future administration of the Royal Opera House: namely that a philistine would do as long as he knew how to read a balance sheet.

Both of these viewpoints are caricatures of the truth, knee-jerk responses of one clan to another and as ill-considered and tribally biased as the football fan's assessment of a consistent national policy for the arts withthe opposing team's game. That the debate about the arts in Britain is conducted in such a pantomime way reflects badly on our exinstitutions, the desire to drive a w between commerce and culture is a foolish and unproductive one. Those who seek to heating and cleaning bills. Without the imply that businessmen misunderstand the arts, because they are lost in dreams of their profit margins during the last act of Meistersinger, are perfectly matched against the enue for day to day upkeep. Kaufmans (all right, he was sending himself up a little in that report, but not that much) who want to knee-cap the gentlefolk of cation of tickets for their clients.-which in Covent Garden and put in a Rachmann to

Without patronage, the arts become a mere subsidized branch the government, reflecting the taste of a not very imaginative elite. The affection of the Blairite beau monde for British art is an example of the way established tastes follow - a few years on - the their understanding of balance sheets, much

Charles Saatchi, in talents like Damien Hirst). When the rich nobleman Maecenas bought into Horace, Virgil and Propertius. his tastes were doubtless considered controversial. It is rarely public funding alone that provides the impulse for new and daring art. Individuals have hunches and instincts. Regional arts funding bodies play safe.

Anyway, few galleries have resources now for collecting contemporary works. Artists bemoan this because, like most people, they prefer a financially stable existence to a handto-mouth one. But as Tony Blair prosaically reminds us: we live in the "real world", and in the real world, however passionately you argue that the arts are as important as hospitals and drains, you will have difficulty making this case against the majority of people who want to secure their publiclyfunded hip replacements and cheap, clean

water before they fund their local theatre. Mr Robinson is alive to this worry. He does not believe that the Arts Council in its present form, is able to deliver answers. He is a Lord High Executioner bringing the axe a few formerly important people. The question is whether any of them will be missed.

Picking through the evidence so far, it emerges that his instinct is to simplify the Arts Council into a policy body and leave the regions to distribute their own funds. He also seeks to heal the division between the subsidized and commercial sectors and to end the tendency of the Council to invest in buildings rather than people. This - and not only the businessman's traditional fetish of admiring other businessmen - is why he is seeking to put more entrepreneurs on the board. Let us see whether they deliver before we carp further.

There is a version of the public versus business funding argument which concludes that the arts do not need public money at all and that any music, drama or pictures worth their salt will survive in a purely market economy. It isn't necessarily so. As Günter Grass pointed out in an essay mocking the art collections of Frankfurt banks, commercial sponsors of sculpture share a single sesthetic: "An abstract, but of course unthreatening, one, which produces circular structures in ecople who misunderstand how the arts work nomic-ecological symbiosis representing the endless circulation of the patron's wealth."

> We need to maintain a mixed economy in the arts because that is the best available guarantee of a breadth of investment and infrastructural support. But the tired old sniping of the subsidized sector against the commercial must end. The future lies in partnership between the two.

> Two worrying silences remain. The first is the regions. It is impossible to construct out addressing the problems of nokeep in the regional theatres and concerts halls. The lottery has been marvellous at promoting modest institutions which need help with their wider tax relief on arts donations (campaigned for by this newspaper), regional arts bodies face a daunting task in raising rev-

> The second is that the quid pro quo for most business sponsors is a generous alloturn restricts public access to the performances and causes resentment among the many people who rightly believe that it is the responsibility of a Labour Government to increase that access.

Mr Robinson's fellow unstarts will find that their problem-solving skills, as well as risky investments of private patrons (like in demand at the new, leaner Arts Council.

In Whitehall they're beginning to murmur: 'Dead Man Walking'



ANDREW MARR THE COMING RESHUFFLE

THE scene is Whitehall. A murmur rises through the grimy corridors and waiting rooms, just audible above the traffic noise outside. The murmur is passed from secretary to deputy secretary, from messenger to private office. And the murmur goes: "Dead Man Walking". In the minister's office, the white-faced minister, hearing it clearly, fiddles at his tie-knot and adjusts his jaw before stepping outside. But all the bravado in the world can't hide the fact that, politically speaking, the minister is dead.

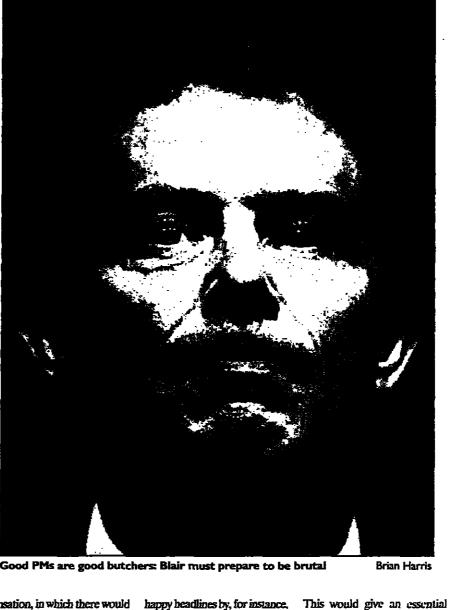
I exaggerate, of course. But the political season is moving towards reshuffle time and already government is awash with speculation about who is out, who down, and who in.

This is a grisly spectacle, one of the few forms of public execution (and, for sensitive ministers, public torture) still sanctioned by a liberal state. But it is probably necessary to our system: prime ministers must be good butchers of their colleagues. And now, quite soon, it is Tony Blair's turn to demonstrate how he will cope.

After weekend stories that the Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, was to be moved soon from the Treasury, Mr Blair's press secretary - displaying the gift for modest understatement for which he is becoming famous - described political journalism", adding, for those who hadn't caught his unit. All reshume stories are crap." Well, fine. But if there is no reshuffle in the spring, it will merely because it is coming in summer instead.

Of recent prime ministers, Margaret Thatcher was a selfconfessed bad butcher. She cut away the wets, though not speedily, during her early years. Later on, though, she was too slow and insufficiently ruthless despite her reputation. She was sentimental about supposed ideological supporters, even when they were bad ministers, and worried about how families would take the news.

When John Major arrived, much was made of a new dis-



Good PMs are good butchers: Blair must prepare to be brutal

boost to a key part of the Gov-

ernment's programme that has

come to seem diffuse, unloved

and baphazard. Cook is a gen-

uine intellectual enthusiast for

reform, and on the radical wing

of the party. Giving him an over-

lord role, like John Prescott's.

would be an imaginative stroke.

remain a columnist's fantasy.

Like Derry Irvine, Gordon

Brown and Jack Straw, Cook is

judged to have performed very

well by Number Ten. The diplo-

ropean capitals, and from

around the world, are very dif-

ferent in tone from the press

complaints about an arrogant

and clumsy amateur; his peers

regard him as an excellent ne-

gotiator with a fine command of

detail. Those of us who think

that Cook has it in him to be

So what will the reshuffle be

more than that will have to wait.

like when it finally comes? Ex-

poet quite a lot of lesser heads

es from other Eu-

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It is also, however, going to

pensation, in which there would be little reshuffling, so that ministers had two, three or four years of guaranteed office in which to master their departments and show what they could do. That, too, failed as a strategy. Weak ministers were left too long. The resignations and firings were often forced on Major - as with David Mellor - or came suddenly and bitterly, as with Norman Lamont. In genthe reports as "The junk food of eral, his reshuffles probably weakened rather than strength-

> TOUGH PRINT WILL MAYOR TONING from those years. In opposition, he was always an intent observer of political decline. Now, he has to prune away the poorer performers and use new ministerial hirings to sharpen the country's perception of what his government is all about. Reshuffles are moments of truth. Up to a point, they do for prime ministers what budgets do for chancellors.

ened the prime minister.

But whenever it comes, my predictions are that Blair will be a tough and unsentimental reshuffler; and that his changes will not please the press.

It would be so easy, wouldn't it, to conjure a great whoosh of

happy headlines by, for instance, dropping the Lord Chancellor and his wallpaper bill; or booting out Peter Mandelson from the Dome project and sending him to the Siberia of a "proper job" working for John Prescott; or even firing the Foreign Secretary, whose personal life and spiky public image have not endeared him to Middle Britain.

Pandering to the prejudices of hacks would, however, be a sign of weakness. Blair knows, from the Conservative experience, how the scent of blood metery encourages the fourna istic frenzy. His focus, instead, has been relentlessly on performance: how well does X or Y do the actual job? No administration as media-obsessed as this one can have enjoyed the publicity created by some of the less popular ministers. But they won't be sacked because of it.

Nor will there be a grand political gesture. The obvious one would be to persuade Robin Cook to leave the gilded corridors of the Foreign Office and grab the constitutional reform agenda, becoming super-minister for devolution, rights, reform of the Lords and Commons and European political reform.

A year into the first Labour administration for ages, he will remove all those people who came into government by virtue of their shadow cabinet vote and who have failed to shine since. David Clark and Gavin Strang are two decent, hardworking cabinet ministers who are probably for the chop on that basis; but so are many more junior The tougher questions are

to roll. Blair needs to demon-

strate that he is a tough leader.

about the future of Frank Dobson at health and Harriet Harman at social security. Dobson will have to deliver on his 100,000 cut in waiting lists to survive. Harman, meanwhile, has powerful enemies in Downing Street, and not only because of the serious mistake in cutting lone parents' allowances and in opening the debate on disability payments. But she has had Gordon Brown as a powerful political protector - because, say cynics, she allows him to run her department as a proxy of the Treasury, If so, Brown has done her no great favours since her survival would be seen in the party as a victory for the Brownites and therefore, perhaps, a sign of prime ministerial weak-

What, finally, of the most media-magnetic personality of them all, Peter Mandelson? He is judged to be ready for promotion but there is the huge problem of the Dome. Though some of the project's creative people think it is being badly damaged by association with him, to move Mandelson away from it now would be some kind of concession of failure. I don't think either Mandelson or Blair would go for that.

He could of course take over either the culture department. headed by Chris Smith, or the cabinet office and machinery of government job now done by David Clark, and keep the Dome too. And given the power-play inside New Labour, any reshuffle which had nothing to say about Mandelson would be very odd indeed.

The cabinet office job would be the shrewder move, since the relationship between Number Ten and the rest of Whiteh far from perfect - and a proposal for reworking it was one of the ideas in Mandelson's pre-election book. Further, that personal strengthening of the Blair's grip is really what this first reshuffle will be all about. He must cut to reshape, and destroy careers to strengthen his project. It will be a grisly rite of passage but after it, Britain will have just a little less Tony, and a little more Prime Minister.

Jobs will soon be flexible, fulfilling and fun



MCRAE

THE FUTURE OF WORK

SO WE are all going to work. A week ago Gordon Brown announced changes to the tax and National Insurance systems to try to reduce the barriers that discourage people from taking jobs. This week Frank Field has outlined proposals to change the benefits system

which will have a similar effect. If the present government does have a hig idea, it is that we should become a "high work" society. That is not to criticise the notion. Indeed given adverse demographic headwind into which all developed countries will be butting, the only way in we will be able to increase living standards over the next generation will be to get just about everyone who can work into some kind of eco-

nomic activity. It will be the only way we will be able both to support the growing army of pensioners without a sharp, and probably unsustainable, rise in the taxation burden.

In fact we are already quite a high work society. Britain is like the US and Japan in the proportion of people of working age (16-64) that are in the labour force - they either have some kind of job or they are looking for one. The US has the highest proportion, over 79 per cent in 1996, while Japan and Britain tied with more than 77 per cent. By contrast, the average for Germany, France Italy and Spain was only 66 per cent.

But if we are - by developed country standards - quite good at getting people who can work into work, I'm not so sure that we are good at tailoring the jobs so that the jobs are flexible, fulfilling and fun. We see the problem in macro-economic or public finance terms because it is obviously a problem for the economy and for government. But it is also a problem for human beings. Governments can remove obstacles to work by improving the tax system and they can bully people into it by ad-

justing the benefits system. They cannot make jobs nicer. That surely is more important than anything else. If we are going to move to an even higher-work society than we are now, where there is considerable

sure on people to do some sort what did they do? A number of chains have special programmes of work, then the only way to make that tolerable is to try to make work more enjoyable.

Ridiculous? As an aim to strive for, of course not many people, maybe most people, find the social interaction of the workplace one of the great attractions of doing a job. In practice there will inevitably be unpleasant jobs that need to be done. The onus is surely on employers to try to fine-tune work

top US companies, including IBM, set up stalls on the beach. handed out flyers about the careers they had on offer, gave out \$5 tokens for refreshments and interviewed people. They even signed a few up, but that was not the aim. The aim was to present themselves as relaxed and flexible places to work, because they knew that was the way to get the best applicants.

Another example is here in practices. "The trick," as Robert London. Most people moving

If we are going to move to a higher-work society, then the only way to make that tolerable is to try to make work more enjoyable

make the laughter outweigh the tears."

Enlightened employers know this. Here are three random examples. Just last week thousands of US students headed to Florida for the annual spring break - the traditional endeavour of partying and boozing which used to take place at Fort Lauderdale and now has moved up to Daytona Beach. Thanks to the long US boom. American companies are des-

Louis Stevenson put it, "is the home want to look at houses at the weekend. But estate agents also need to staff their offices at weekend. So they use sixth-

formers to help show people round: meet people at the house, let them in, go round with them and make sure it is locked up afterwards. The sixthformers get some money and have a reasonably interesting day, and the job gets done. It is clever use of - as economists would say - marginal labour.

A third example is the way

to attract older workers who have taken early retirement. Naturally they tailor the hours to suit the person, and they have found that provided they are flexible in the terms they offer they can get particularly competent people to come and This is only the beginning -

small signs that good employers are aware that we are heading into a world where corporate competitive advantage requires a flexible approach to hiring. I would expect several big trends to become much more evident over the next ten years. In particular five barriers or frontiers will be broken down.

First, the frontier between full-time and part-time work will become even more blurred. Clever companies will learn to use efficiently whatever time they can buy from trained people. Managing a flexible workforce, with lots of part-timers, is much more complicated than organising full-timers, but there are great potential gains in efficiency if it is done well.

Next, the frontier between retirement and paid work will also soften, with it becoming normal (as it is in Japan) for people to "retire" and then kind of work, perhaps part-

Third, the frontier between social, moral and financial pres- perate for good graduates. So several of our supermarket learning and work will become work more fun?

much weaker. It will be normal for young people in what we now think of as full-time education to do some kind of work. It will be normal for people in full-time work to carry on being educated at the same time. Both student and work schedules will need to accommodate

Fourth, the distinction between paid work and voluntary work will tend to disappear. More people will carry out some kind of voluntary work, regarding this as part of their normal life, alongside their paid activities. Meanwhile more voluntary work will be partly-paid. that is not at full commercial

Finally the frontier between employment and self-employment will become much less clear-cut. People will work for the majority of their time with an employer, but will have their own private commercial activities alongside this. Both sides will need to be frank with each other to make sure that these sort of relationships benefit everyope.

All this makes management more difficult. It is much harder to run bottom-up flexible organisations, than top-down command and control ones. But the plain fact is that this is move straight into some other a commercial necessity given the changing shape and aspirations of the work-force. Besides, what is wrong with trying to make



Chemist joins the queue of high street retailers offering financial services with instant health and travel cover-

Boots targets £Ibn market for insurance

Cit. Correspondent

BOOTS the Chemists yesterday launched an assault on Britain's £1bn insurance market with a new range of policies covering health and travel. The initiative is the latest in a series of moves into financial services by Britain's best-known high street retailers, Marks & Spencer has been offering pensions and loans for years while supermarkets such as Tesco, J Sainsbury and Safeway have launched telephone banking services and other financial products.

But Boots insisted its move into insurance was not a prelude to a "Boots Bank" and that it would not offer private medical

Steve Russell, managing director of Boots the Chemist, said: "The move is a natural extension of the Boots brand and our overall offer to customers: month under the NHS system It takes us into a market which or £15, per month under a is a natural lit for us and which represents a real commercial opportunity."

Royal & SunAlliance to offer five health insurance policies. There is each for multiple births aimed at family health, pregnancy, dental health, child injury and accident. In addition, there are four travel policies: covering single trips or yearround cover as well as a "Gap working or travelling abroad during their year off between school and university. Royal & Sun will provide the underwriting and claims services and

carry the insurance risk. Boots, led by executive chairman Lord Blyth, aims to demystify the purchase of insurance by keeping its literature and sales methods simple, The policies go on sale in 250 of the largest stores from 15 April, Customers will be able to fill in forms in the



.stores and pay for cover which takes effect instantly.

The launch will be backed by a £8m marketing budget, including hig in-store promotions. Boots hopes to sell 250,000 polices in the first year and 1 million after five. It claims the business will break even in year one. Boots claimed its prices to be highly competitive.

The dental plan costs £7 a.

The pregnancy policy cost £95 and enables holders to ring a 24 Boots is teaming up with hour information line to talk to qualified midwives and nurses. and additional stays in hospital. In travel insurance, an annual 289 for a single person and £140 for a family.

Boots said its research on Year" policy aimed at students customers' shopping habits Benefield.

Off-the-shelf financial services

high proportion were seeking travel-related products such as sun tan lotion and sunglasses.

Analysts welcomed the move saying it was a logical way for Boots to leverage its brand in the health and travel markets. There is a logical link between selling tanning lotion and travel insurance," said John Richards at NatWest Securities. "If you have a brand with enormous loyalty then you have the opportunity to cross-sell other products."

Ashley Thomas at SG Securities agreed that it was a positive move but warned that Boots should not stretch itself too far. They obviously have to be careful not to dilute the brand so they don't stretch it too much. I wouldn't want Boots to suddenly go into estate agency or travel." Another analysts said the

move could be good news for gered by travel agents which insist on the purchase of insurance from them when booking holidays. Many consumers have feared they were not being offered the best deal.

Boots' policies will include a 30-day cooling off period and accrue points on the stores' Advantage loyalty card, which was policy for a family is priced at launched last year. Boots shares rose 12.5p to 918p.

Additional reporting by Kerty



On the cards: The Post Office's new chairman, Neville Bain, asked the Government for more commercial freedom as he announced a freeze on stamp prices until April 1999 yesterday

Post Office sell-off still possible

By Michael Harrison

PRIVATISATION of the Post Office is still: on the agenda, its new chairman said yesterday as he urged the Government to give the organisation its commercial freedom.

Speaking as the Post Office announced a freeze on first and second class letter prices until at least April of next year, Neville Bain said the Government's review of the Post Office was examining all means of giving the business com-mercial freedom. "All forms of commerdisation including privatisation will be considered," he said,

Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, is thought to have opposed any direct sell-off of part of the Post Office. But the Treasury is much Keener on some form of partial privatisation which would bring in revenue and allow

the Post Office to compete with overseas competitors. A partial sale of up to 50 per ners, raise funding on the private market cent of the business could raise £2on.

Dr Bain, who became chairman last week, warned that if the Government contimued to milk the Post Office for profit without giving it more commercial free dom, then the value of the business would halve from its present level of £3.25bn in the next five years.

The amount of cash the Treasury extracts from the Post Office through its External Financing Limit is due to rise from £330m in the current financial year to £335m next year and £345m in 1999-2000.

John Roberts, the Post Office's chief executive, said it was disappointing that the review had not yet been competed, adding that he hoped it would be published before the summer recess.

The Post Office is pressing for the right

to enter joint ventures with private partand offer a wider range of services, such as insurance, across its Counters network.

Previously, the Post Office has warned that lack of commercial freedom and increasing cash demands on it from the Treasury would affect investment levels and its ability to hold prices.

Mr Roberts said that the latest freeze on letter prices had been made possible by volume growth and efficiency gains. The amount of post being handled is rising 4-5 per cent a year while investment in the coming year is likely to be a little higher than last year's £408m.

Letter prices have not risen since July. 1996. The decision to keep them on hold until at least next April means that prices will have stayed frozen for 33 months the longest period since the 1960s.

Halifax anger at 'farcical' **Midshires** battle

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

> HALIFAX yesterday said the bid battle for Birmingham Midshires had descended into farce as the building society dramatically reneged on an eightmonth old agreement to sell the society to Royal Bank of Scotland for £630m.

Mike Jackson, chief executive of Birmingham Midshires. said the RBS offer was no longer high enough, given a 50 per cent rise in the value of retail banks since last August, when the deal was struck.

"Given the advice which the society has received, the board cannot now recommend that our members vote in favour of a transfer at a price which we no longer believe to be fair and

The society's U-turn means the prospect of a windfall worth £630 each to the society's 1 million members has temporarily been withdrawn.

The Building Societies Commission said details of the RBS offer could not be put to members without the board's recommendation.

Both Birmingham Midshires and Halifax yesterday called for RBS to release Midshires from a legally binding agreement which blocks the society from discussing other bids. Halifax has offered £780m, potentially boosting windfalls by at least

Gary Marsh, director of cororate affairs at Halifax, said: 'It's a farcical situation that in sense is becoming more farcical.

"They are not recommending the RBS offer, the RBS are saying they are considering their position, and the society can't send [an offer] to its mem bers. RBS should recognise re ality and withdraw."

Royal Bank of Scotland hit back by indicating it would consider legal action over the deal - action which could force Midshires to stick with the lower offer or block it from banding out windfalls.

Consumer groups protest as P&O fares surge after link-up

By Terry Macalister

P&O yesterday upset consumer groups by signalling a determination to push up fares on . 1994 and 1997 when the Chancross-Channel ferry routes after its tie-up with rival Stena Line. Graeme Dunlop, P&O fer-

ry boss, said that passenger

and freight fares had already been raised 6 per cent and 12 per cent respectively this year. Asked about further scope for increases, he said: "There is that possibility." Lord Sterling, P&O chairman, added that it was "logical" for prices to move

The Consumers Association said: "We said at the time that joint operations would reduce choice for consumers and lead to higher prices. That view seems to be confirmed."

The 1998 rates will be kept at the current level introduced on I January, partly because that there are also great added.

STOCK MARKETS

Yesterday in the markets

brochures with this year's prices have been published. But P&O says it needed further increases to make up for a 50 per cent dron in short sea rates between

nel Tunnel opened.

A fire which halted Tunnel traffic was partly responsible for P&O Ferries producing a significant increase in 1997 operating profits of £67.7r; for the 12 month period. That helped produce a better-than-expected P&O goutp increase of 30 per cent in pre-tax profits, to

But one third of fetry revenues came from shipboard sales and P&O is presuming the European Union will abolish duty free sales next year.

P&O and Stena have a free hand to raise their fares over the next- three-years, under the terms of EU approval for the joint operation. But P&O says

Meanwhile Lord Sterling revealed that a new joint venture between P&O's bulk shipping interests with Shougang Group of China could be floated as a separate company.

It would be natural to move the joint venture, to be called ABC, away from the umbrella of P&O by way of an Initial Public Offering on Hong Kong and US stock markets, he said Lord Sterling also used a presentation for P&O's 1997 fi-

nancial results to indicate that pareholders could be in line for an increased dividend over the coming 12 months. The 30.5p dividend held for

the last five years in the face of mounting City criticism had probably been set too high in 1992, he said. It was "something we will be re-examining" in the light of the company's increasingly buoyant position, he

INTEREST RATES

US bid for Spandex nets founders £58m

By Terry Macalister

A husband and wife team that founded a sign-making equipment company 22 years ago are poised to share £57.9m between them after an agreed bid from a US buyer.

Charles Dobson and his ife, Mary, established Spandex in 1976 to market a range of signs systems they had designed. together. Their big break was to win exclusive UK distribution rights to an American letter cutting computer distributed in the US by Gerber Scientific Inc.

Now Gerber has made a £109.2m deal to buy out Spandex. This means Mr Dobson, Spandez chairman, and his director wife obtain 325p for each of the 17.8 million shares. they collectively own. Edmund Bruegger, the managing direc-



Charles and Mary Dobson: Founded Spandex 22 years ago

Gerber has irrevocable undertakings from 54.5 per cent of the total issued share capital of Spandex, which was floated on the Unlisted Securities Market

Mr Bruegger said he and Mr Dobson expected to continue in

CURRENCIES

tor, will make £68,250 from his their roles "for the foreseeable future" but said Mrs Dobson might stand down.

Spander's operations have suffered from maturing European markets. Profits on turnover of £101m last year dropped to £9m from £9.9m for 1996, mainly due to the effect of the strong pound.

The UK Index-Tracking PEP

The All-Share Tracking PEP

performed the best.

that's charged the least, has

informative:

Withdrawal of Visa Card Points Programme

The First Direct Visa Card Points Programme and First Direct Premier Visa Card Points Programme are being withdrawn with effect from 1 July 1998.

Cardholders will have until their July statement date to collect further points and until 31 October 1998 to redeem their points.

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First Direct Visa or Premier Visa statement

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JEREMY WARNER ON WHY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS IN BUSINESS MAKE BAD POLICY, WHO CONVERSION IS REALLY GOOD FOR AND THE LESSONS OF **TOONGATE**

Cool Britannia gives way to Crony Britannia

TONY BLAIR seems to have a particular liking for corporate deal making. doesn't he? Whether it was Mr Blair who got on the blower to Romano Prodi, or as Downing Street would have us believe, the other way round, Mr Blair certainly seems to have put in some kind of a plea for his friend and supporter, Rupert Murdoch, who at the time was trying to buy Silvio Berluscom's Italian TV networks. Well, he's only human, isn't he? So much more exciting, this power broking, than attending to Prime Minister's questions, persuading the poor to go back to work, or deciding our position on the single currency.

But lest it be thought Mr Blair is dis-playing undue favouritism to Mr Murdoch, actually he may not be. His liking for corporate deal making is not tycoon specific. He seems to like all tycoons. If it's big business which runs the world these days, not governments, Mr Blair is determined to have his say. He also, by all accounts, encouraged Sir Richard Sykes to seek a merger with SmithKline Beecham after Jan Leschly announced an alternative tie up with American Home Products. Then there was his famous agreement with BT ahead of the election, under which BT was to wire up schools to the superhighway in return for early release from the ban on running broadcast TV over the telephone network.

Mr Blair talks constantly about the need for "partnership" between government and business and he's put prominent industrialists in charge of a number of key government reviews. Why, he's even appointed one of them - Lord Simon - a government minister. There may not be anything wrong as such with all this, but Mr Blair should not be surprised if it lays him open to charges of cronyism.

صكنا من الاحل

The function of government is to set a broad framework of public policy for all business to operate in on equal terms, not to favour one sectional commercial interest. over others. For governments or prime ministers to cosy up to particular busissmen in the hope they might support their political or economic aims is wrong per se, as well as being potentially corrupt.

Let's be charitable about this and put Mr Blair's love of the boardroom down more to naivity and inexperience than anything more sinister. Even so, the fondness he displays for the aims and ambitions of big business is worryingly wrong headed. Mr Blair would probably deny he has bought the national champion arguments so much beloved of our consolidating captains of industry, but he certainly displays all the characteristic body language.

In today's global market place, the na-

tional champion case is a beguiling and ductive one. No doubt about that. Even this column has on occasions been persuaded of its merits. But in truth there's no correlation between size and efficiency in business, or between size and innovation. Rather the reverse. Our best hope of national prosperity lies not in a small number of giant national champions, not in hegemony, but in variety, in a vibrant free enterprise economy vigorously defended through public policy against monopolistic abuse and commercial

favouritism. Nobody is suggesting that what we are seeing in New Labour is the sort of fully fledged crony capitalism that came to epitomise the now discredited economies of the Far East, but there are enough warning signs here to be cause for genuine concern.

Conversion and executive pay

THE REAL reason for the building society conversions of the last year has emerged shamefacedly from the closet even faster than this column could have predicted. It never had anything to do with access to capital, the argument peddled by building society chiefs at the time. As it turns out, the building societies already have more capital than they know profitably what to do with. Unable to spend it to advantage, they are being forced to give it away by the bucket load.

Nor did it have anything to do with the more efficient, accountable and profitorientated culture shareholder status is meant to bring about. Despite these supposed advantages, the converts are being persistently outclassed by the remaining mutuals with more competitive savings and mortgage rates. The mutuals are able to do this for the simple reason that they don't pay a dividend, and are winning market share from the converts with growing success.

No, the real reason is our old friend executive pay. Halifax's accounts last week revealed that Mike Blackburn, chief executive, doubled his annual pay to £824,000 in the leap from mutual to publicly listed status. That sum included a £300,000 "bonus" for conversion. Plucky little Northcm Rock is following in the slip stream. The chief executive, Leo Finn, sees his salary rocket from £260,000 to £430,000. The justification given by Northern's remuneration committee is 'to ensure that directors basic salaries were paid at around the mid point between the median and upper quartiles within an appropriate comparator group of financial institutions".

No wonder so many of building society chiefs opted for conversion. Quite an incentive, that.

A fine old mess at Newcastle United

NEWCASTLE United are not having much luck on the pitch this season. But last night the supporters of good corporate governance were savouring a resounding victory at St James' Park after the departure of Douglas Hall, the aptly titled vice-chairman of the football club. and its chairman Freddie Shepherd.

That was how it was being presented, anyway. The trouble is that in reality it wasn't really this at all. The scoring partnership of Shepherd and Hall has been broken up not because of their poor stewardship of the quoted company, of which they are also both directors, but because of unguarded and offensive remarks made and recorded in a Spanish brothel.

It will probably suit the record books to show that the two men quit after running up against the defensive back line of Sir Terence Harrison, Dennis Cassidy and John Mayo. But the truth is there was a deafening silence from the independent non-execs for more than a week after the allegations first appeared in the News of the World.

Shareholder pressure only resulted in the departure of the two men in so far as most of the minority shareholders are also supporters. The better parallel is with the fate that befell Gerald Ratner after his illjudged comments about the quality of his goods at the Institute of Directors. Those remarks ultimately cost Mr Ratner his job

and his company. Ultimately, the same may happen to the Hall dynasty. But in the meantime it remains in control. The patriach, Sir John, comes out of retirement as caretaker chairman of the football club, Meanwhile Douglas may have quit with his tail between his legs but his holding company. Cameron Hall Developments, continues to bold 57 per cent of the shares and the right to nominate a director to the board. Likewise Shepherd Offshore, which controls a further 8 per cent of the shares.

While the two men seemed intent on staying put the shares rose by $10 \mathrm{p}$. The talk now is of CHD selling down to below 50 per cent. Long term that may help the shares. But short term the overhang may further depress the price, leaving the average shareholder/supporter feeling as ripped off as if he had bought one of the Magnies' replica shirts. All very unsatisfactory.

£520m claim against Ionica seeks refinancing **BCCI** auditors fails

By Lea Paterson

THE HIGH COURT has struck out a \$866m (£520m) claim against Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm which acted as joint auditor to the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) until 1987.

However, Deloitte & Touche, liquidator to BCCI, said it would seek to overturn the judgment in the Court of Appeal. Deloitte & Touche is pursuing Ernst & Whinney, a predecessor of Ernst & Young, for a total of \$3.5bn - including the \$866m struck out yesterday - and has made allegations of negligence, breach of contract and breach of duty.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Laddie stated that, had the liquidator's submissions been accepted, "they would represent a radical extension of the liabilities shouldered by an auditor".

Nick Land, a senior partner of Ernst & Young, said he was "not surprised" that the claim had been found unsustainable.

Christopher Morris, a partner of Deloitte & Touche said: "The result is disappointing, but we shall be taking the matter to the Court of Appeal and hope to have the order reversed, as-

By Michael Harrison

IONICA, the wireless telephone operator, is attempting to ease its financial troubles by replacing a £300m loan facility with a mixture of third-party

> The company's shares have collapsed since its stock market flotation last July and it will not be able to draw on the credit facility because it is in breach

of its banking covenants. Instead of revising the terms of the facility with its financial backers, Banque Paribas, SBC Warburg, Société Générale and we did on a previous occasion". Nortel, Ionica is likely to seek 10 per cent of the network and

other forms of funding to complete the roll-out of its fixed radio access network.

The build-out of the network will cost £1.5bn and is not now expected to be complete until 2004 - four years later than the timescale set down in finance, high-yield debt and Ionica's licence. Ionica has £100m in cash

fresh equity. available to continue installing base stations but it will need new financing by the latter part of this year. Details of the new financing plans are due to appear in the summer as part of a strategic overhaul of the group launched by its new chief executive Michael Biden.

So far, Ionica has rolled out

has installed 250 base stations in three regions - East Anglia, the Midlands and Yorkshire. The company, which had 35,000 customers at the end of the third quarter, is aiming for 2 million subscribers and is con-

Mr Biden said he believed Ionica could attract 500,000 customers in the three areas where it is operating and said a new software upgrade, which will double its capacity, was on schedule to be installed from

centrating its efforts on those

areas where it has launched a

this May. He was speaking as Ionica pledged that it would match the latest series of price cuts by BT, parties.

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which is reducing the cost of night time weekday local calls by 10 per cent next month.

Ionica shocked the market last autumn by disclosing that the software upgrade had been delayed and its roll-out programme was behind schedule. Since then the shares have plunged to 70p from their flotation price of 390p, wiping £525m from Ionica's

Mr Biden said Ionica was also looking at the possibility of piggy-backing on base stations already installed in other parts of the country by other operators and offering space on its own base stations to third

World Bank questions the wisdom of free capital flows in emerging markets

By Diana Coyle Economics Editor

THE WORLD BANK called yesterday for a debate on the need for capital controls on investment in developing countries in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis.

The Bank admitted that capital liberalisation could carry risks for emerging markets.

Fred Kilby, the author of the World Bank's annual report on financial flows in the developing world, said: "There may be a case for looking at whether it is feasible or desirable to place some constraints on short-term capital flows."

The comments will guarantee a reassessment of the IMFs drive for further liberalisation of global capital markets is high on the agenda next month, when the two institutions hold their halfyearly meeting in Washington.

Yesterday's report highlighted the control-introduced by Chile in 1991 and Colombia in 1993. These in effect tax loans of short maturities. Studies suggest they have tilted borrow-

ing towards long-term loans. Private capital flows to developing countries reached a new record last year of \$256bn (£155bn). The rich OECD members cut their aid budgets from \$59bn in 1996 to \$55bn in 1997 or 0.25 per cent of GDP.

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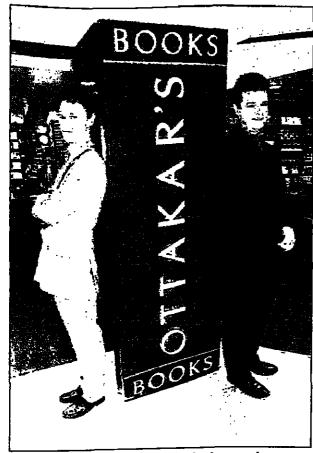
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COMPUTER SYSTEMS



Book profits: James Heneage, Ottakar's managing director (left), and Neil Lloyd, finance director

Ottaker's pushes ahead with float after talks with US book giant

By Nigel Cope Ca. Conespondent

OTTAKAR'S, the book retailer, yesterday confirmed it had held "informal discussions" with its American rival Barnes & Noble "about mutual areas of interest" but said it remained fully committed to its stock market flotation. The company is coming to the market next month via a placing with institutions that will ruise £18m and value the 47strong chain at £30m.

James Heneage, the managing director, said: "There was nor will there be. We will remain independent and we will float."

It is thought that they centred on a possible joint venture in certain aspects of the business. This could be Ottakar's using Barnes & Noble's expertise in developing larger stores.

Mr Hencage admitted that there was nothing to stop Barnes & Noble buying a stake in the business after its float. Mr Heneage was speaking as

Ottakar's published its pathfinder prospectus, which showed pre-tax profits last year rose 77 per cent to £2m. Sales no approach for the business, grew 63 per cent to £38m.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

P&O profits steam ahead

LORD STERLING, P&O's pugnacious chairman, has had to navigate choppy waters over the last three years. Some of the group's shareholders called for his head as dividend payouts remained at a standstill and the City moaned about the company's perceived lack of direction.

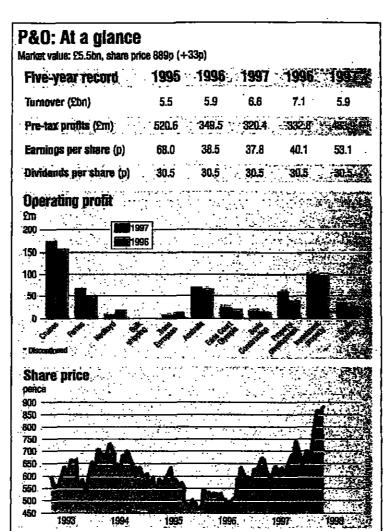
But his lordship really did have something to smile about yesterday. He unveiled a better-than-expected set of 1997 profit figures and a positive outlook for the future. Pre-tax profits rose 30 per cent to £433.9m in the year to 31 December 1997 while headline profits before re-organisation costs were up 25 per cent to £401.2m. There was no immediate dividend hike but there were strong hints this would happen next time.

There were strong contributions from the cruise, property and ferry divisions and P&O has embarked on a series of joint ventures to counter difficult markets. Partnerships with Stena and Shougang have helped shore up profits for ferries and bulk shipping respectively. The only disappointments were the P&O Nedlloyd joint container shipping venture and the Trans European trucking arm.

P&O is slimmer, trimmer and working hard to come up to new standards of return on capital employed (Roce), now set at 15 per cent. Over two years the group overall has raised its Roce

game from 11.1 to 12.9 per cent. The P&O Nedlloyd venture languished at 2 per cent while Trans European was also dismal. But Lord Sterling is confident his expected predecessor. Tim Harris, can rescue the COO COMEDACK former while the latter is threatened with a sell-off if it fails to improve.

med the market by 9 per cent over the tail comeback of the year then Malcolm last three months, rose another 33p to 889p. Analysts expect 1998 profits to time last year the company announced reach £475m, putting P&O on a for- a buy-back of a third of its shares to boost ward multiple of 16.8. It is not to late is flagging share price after its first dip



Iceland makes a

P&O shares, which have outperfor- IF THERE was an Oscar for unlikely re-Walker's Iceland would surely win it. This in profits for 26 years. By July the

shares had dipped to a five year low of 77p and by September the board had controversially re-negotiated their share option prices (downwards obviously).

And now look what's happened. Iceland surprised everyone yesterday with sales sharply boosted by the introduction of home delivery. The shares followed suit rising 10 per cent to 197.5p as analysts rushed to upgrade.

Same-store sales are up by a thumping 16 per cent in current trading

parison the previous year. It is expecting the figure to drop to a still respectable mid-single figure over the year.

All this should not detract from Mr. Walker's entrepreneurial achievement. If there is a criticism now it is that the company is trying to do too much. Gearing is high but should fall to less than 70 per cent in two years. Assuming current year profits of £60m the shares trade on a measly forward p/e of less than 10. A 50 per cent discount to the market looks cheap.

Nycomed deals prove a success

NYCOMED Amersham has had a hectic year, completing not one but two mergers to create a real force in the worldwide healthcare market. Both deals have been a real success for shareholders. Underlying earnings per share, perhaps the best way to measure the growth in the business, jumped 41 per cent to 90.1p. The share price has reflected this great performance, rising strongly since last Autumn.

The new group has only just started to reap the benefit of cost savings, which should rise to £70m by the turn of the century. But the group will have to start producing strong organic growth to justify its rating. Its X-ray business will con-tinue to suffer this year from a price war in the US.

A slimmed down pharmaceutical business is showing better returns following a sharp cut in the research and development budget. The real driver to growth, however, will be its life sciences business, which specialises in developing ways to speed up the development of new drugs.

The shares slipped 59p to 2271p yesterday on US trading and currency fears. ABN Amro Hoare Govett forecasts current year profits of £227m, putting the shares on a prospective p/e of 22. Nycomed Amersham still looks like a solthough this is against a very weak com- id hold with good long term prospects.

Flextech plans holiday channel

procket

By Peter Thal Larsen

FLEXTECH, the television programming group, yesterday unveiled plans to launch an interactive travel television channel which will allow viewers to order holidays while watching programmes about their desti-

Brett Harman, managing director, said the channel was likely to be one of many based around home shopping. He said Flextech had chosen travel because many viewers already use Teletext when planning their holidays.

The announcement was made as Flextech announced a net profit, before exceptionals, of £1.9m for 1997, compared to a £15.6m loss the previous year. The profits were struck before exceptional costs of £7m related to the start-up costs of UKTV. Flextech's joint venture with the BBC, and the costs of relaunching Flextech's own channels.

The company said it was planning to launch another two UKTV channels. The first, called UKFM, will be a music channel similar to MTV. The second will be a sports entertainment channel carrying quizzes and gameshows.

Flextech said it was still in negotiations with BSkyB, the satellite operator, about a deal which would offer all Flextech's channels to subscribers to BSkyB's digital service, which launches in June. The two companies are understood to have reached an agreement on price.

Flextech shares closed up

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Savoy's sparkle set to raise asking price

THE SAVOY HOTEL group, the subject of a furious bidding the black, announcing pre-tax previous year.

The figures smashed analysts' forecasts and could raise the asking price of the group, which owns The Connaught, Claridge's and The Berkeley, to more than £550m.

The Savoy's resurgence also ensures that Ramon Pajares. managing director, and his management team, will be kept on by any new owners if the group is sold.

American hotel groups and financial buyers are circling. Blackstone, the US bank, has already tabled an indicative bid of £520m. However analysts believe that the Savoy's strong results should attract buyers from around the world keen to

get hold of some of the most

war, yesterday burst back into put to shareholders and none of reflecting the fruits of a £72m profits of £22.2m in 1997 com- ed due diligence. The group is flagship hotels over the last pared to a loss of £24.3m in the unlikely to select a final buyer few years. for some time. A sale is being held up by a wrangle between the Wontner family and Granada, the group's largest shareholders, over the division of the spoils. Bickering within the Wontner family may also scupper a deal. Doubts about a sale going ahead sent Savoy's shares

down 87.5p to 1800p yesterday. Mr Pajares said he was confident he could continue to improve the performance of the hotels whoever ended up controlling them and was happy to

work for any owner. He is keen to take the Savoy name abroad. "We have no plans to do that at the moment but speaking on a personal level the brand name is excellent and it would be a very good

prized properties in the indus- chance to ... look at opportutry. The interest could push the nities overseas," he said.

Savoy's operating profits No formal offer has yet been jumped 54 per cent to £24.2m, the potential suitors have start- refurbishment program at its Higher occupancy and room

rates helped operating margins improve to 23.8 from 17.7 per cent. Operating profits at The Berkeley grew 61 per cent thanks to the opening of an exclusive health club on the site in conjunction with Christian Dior. A strong marketing drive in the US and Europe to attract new visitors meant the group was able to shrug off the potentially damaging effect of the strong pound and the economic turmoil in the Far East. The group plans to spend another £9m sprucing up the hotels this year.

Over the last three years its pre-tax profits have grown 460 per cent and dividends have

Profits leap at troubled Newcastle

By Andrew Yates

NEWCASTLE United, the Premier League football club rocked by a row over insulting remarks by two executives, yesterday tried to draw a line under the episode as it unveiled a strong rise in interim profits.

Operating profits rose 56 per cent to £10.3m for the six months to January, thanks to a strong rise in television revenues. Participation in the Enropean Champions league contributed £5.5m, compared to the £3.6m from the UEFA Cup the previous season. However sales of replica kits and merchandise were disappointing.

Newcastle wants to expand its retail operation from the North-East, where it has reached saturation. It wants to expand its mail order operation and is considering setting up new stand-alone retail outlets.

Freddie Fletcher, group chief executive, said the controversy surrounding Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall had damaged sales. Neither director will receive any pay-off following their resignation.

Outlook, page 23 | wealthy customer base or do

Skilled workforce 'is no economic panacea'

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

IMPROVING the skills of the workforce might be at the top of the Government's jobs agenda, but it is no panacea for improving Britain's economic performance. That will also depend on companies aiming to sell higher quality goods and services, according to a new report from the Employment Policy Institute.

Many British businesses opt for what the authors identify as the "Gerald Ratner strategy" of competing on the basis of low price and low quality.

When the former head of the bargain jewellery chain described its products as strategy at the same time as im-"crap", he might have been foolish but he was honest, according to Ewart Keep of Ken Mayhew of Pembroke College, Oxford.

Their research suggests that many British companies opt for this strategy rather than developing high-quality prod-

ucts that require skilled labour.

not have the internal organisation to move upmarket.

Given this pattern, improved workforce skills will not by itself guarantee a more competitive UK economy.

Mr Keep said: "For many British companies, competitiveness lies not in upskilling workers to make quality products but through price. Providing companies with more highly skilled workers can only increase levels of dissatisfaction when those workers are employed in poor quality, lowpaid jobs."

The paper, "Was Ratner Right?" recommends a dual policy of encouraging businesses to opt for the high-value proving standards of education and training.

Companies would also have Warwick Business School and to switch to patterns of work organisation that allowed employees to use their skills, and improve employee relations to improve trust and

motivation. It concludes that this "poses a major challenge to policy-This can make sense for makers for whom upskilling has businesses that do not have a for too long been a convenient

HK group pockets £176m from Somerfield merger

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

THOSE chaps at Dairy Farm with institutional investors, at GEC, both stocks were inmust be feeling pretty pleased a price around 333p.

with themselves. At the beginning of the year, the Hong-Matheson empire, was sitting on a large stake in supermarket group Kwik Save part of the FTSE 250 index. which was rapidly diminishing

Dairy Farm wanted out, but wanted a better price for trouble, while investors no its shares than the market was prepared to pay.

broker a merger with Somer- put on 7.5p to 345.5p yester- by the end of the month. field, the rival supermarket group, in February. The deal, which lifted shares in both companies, got the thumbs up from the regulators earlier last week and was declared unconditional last Friday.

The merger left Dairy Farm with an 11 per cent holding in the new, enlarged Somerfield. But not for long. Yesterday, the Hong Kong group, acting through SBC

Analysts said the main interest was likely to have come in Somerfield now that it is

The result is that everybody is happy. Dairy Farm pockets a cool £176m for its longer worry about an overhang of stock in the market. day - almost £1 higher than they were when the merger

was announced. The Somerfield activity was one of the few bits of hard news on a trading day which was otherwise soggy with old

TUIDOUTS. Traders attempted to dress up the old story of consolidation in the defence industry. Rather than wheel out the old one about a merger be-Warburg, placed all its shares tween British Aerospace and

stead being pushed as potential predators in the US.

The argument runs some-Kong based food retailing from US value investors as thing like this. The US govgroup, part of the Jardine well as UK tracker funds, erument's decision to block which have to have a holding the merger between aerospace groups Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman means both will be looking for

Meanwhile, the European defence industry is expected to present a proposal for consolidation to the French, Ger-Their response was to Indeed, Somerfield shares man and British governments Even though every indication is that the report will be a damp squib, some continue to hold out hopes for a posi-

partners elsewhere.

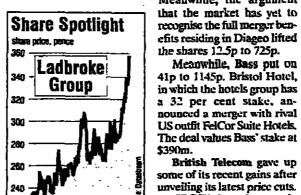
GEC finished the day at 469p, up 21p, while British Aerospace put on 52p to close at 2015p.

tive statement.

Ladbroke was the best-performing stock in the Footsie. rising 22p - or 6.5 per cent to close at 358p on renewed speculation that the group is re-

viving its merger plans with the day's fall - lifted the index to Hilton hotel group. Analysts think Tuesday's collapse of Hilton's merger with US group Circus makes a deal with Ladbroke more likely.

Despite all this rumour, the Footsie hardly responded. making little progress towards the 6,000 mark until a strong opening on Wali Street - a response to the previous



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5983.7, up 36.7, at the close. Among the blue chips, drinks groups Allied Domecq and Diageo moved ahead after ABN Amro rated both

The broker reckons that Allied Domecq, up 1p at 587p, is good value even if it for its drinks businesses. Meanwhile, the argument that the market has yet to recognise the full merger ben-

the shares 12.5p to 725p. Meanwhile, Bass put on 41p to 1145p. Bristol Hotel, after giving analysts a positive in which the hotels group has a 32 per cent stake, announced a merger with rival US outfit FelCor Suite Hotels. The deal values Bass' stake at \$390m.

British Telecom gave up some of its recent gains after unveiling its latest price cuts. An SBC Warburg downgrade also helped knock the shares down 25p to 656p.

Profit-taking also hit Orange, down 2p at 410p, and

Vodafone, 14p lighter at 582p. Bluebird Toys, fending off a hostile 101p bid from Ron Brierley's Guinness Peat Green, enjoyed a 6p rise to 113.5 after revealing it had received other offers which could lead to a counter-bid for fails to find a merger partner the Polly Pocket to Plasticine group. GPG was unchanged

> Software group Misys, which just missed out on a place in the Footsie earlier this month, steamed through the £30 mark for the first time update. The shares were up

100p at exactly 3000. Other midcap favourites were engineering group Glynwed, which stormed up 33p at 294p after unveiling a builish set of results.

The same factors helped television group Flextech, 29p up at 535p, and construction group Taylor Woodrow, 8p better at 237p.

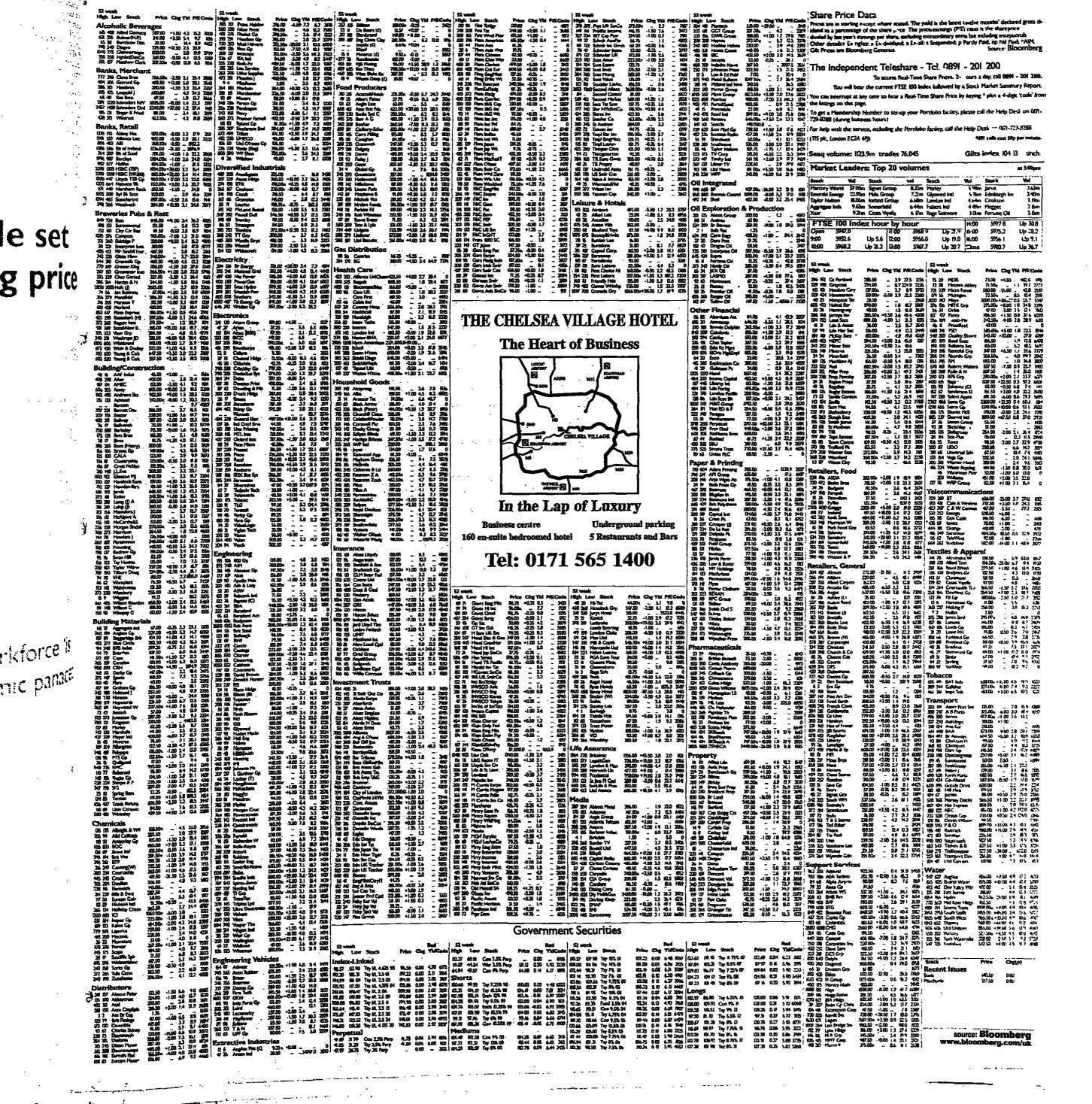
TAKING STOCK

WATCH out for action at Albermarle & Bond, the AlM-lister nawnbroker. Ezcorp International, a Texas-based pawnbroking outfit, bas taken a 29.996 per cent stake. Albermarle's management says it has been aware of the company, and is trying to find out what its intentions are. Ezcorp bought it of its shares from longterm shareholder Central Europe Corporation, and is expected to make a statement in the next few weeks. The shares traced up 7p to 51.5p.

THERE are still devoted football fans around. A supporter of Manchester City. the Nationwide League relegation candidates, was sued with 850,000 shares in the club at 88p a share. The proceeds of £748,000 are to belp fund player purchases. The supporter remained anonymous, although the club stressed he is "unconnected to any board member or major shareholder." The Ofex-quoted shares dropped 10p to 199p.

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Interest rate rises cool housing market

By Kerry Benefield

LAST YEAR's strong growth in the housing and construction struction profits rising £5.2m. sector is unlikely to be repeated market had already begun what was being called a long-term slowdown in the face of in- ket conditions appear generally creasing interest rates and a strong pound, they said.

mand rising, but there are problems on the pricing end."

two leading players in the ported a 9 per cent rise in UK market. Taylor Woodrow and sales last year but expect that Mariey, revealed a strong performance in 1997 but hinted at in 1998. Profits will also not see slower growth this year.

a 23 per cent rise, with housing ing a gain of £1.7m and con-

Colin Parsons, the chief exin 1998 despite the recent jump ecutive, expressed subdued enin retail sales, according to industry analysis. The booming after the 1997 profit explosion. "Taylor Woodrow is looking at 1998 with some optimism. Marpositive for all our operations."

Taylor Woodrow believes the That bounce is pretty much most recent rise in the UK over," Michael Foster of Credit housing market suggests that Lyonnais Laing said yesterday customer interest remains high of the most recent rise. "We are across the country. But it expects still going to be seeing UK de- the price rises in 1998 will be slow in comparison with 1997.

Taylor Woodrow's housing Their comments came as business, Taywood Homes, renumber to reach only 7 per cent last year's heights, and Mr Par-Taylor Woodrow announced sons said that "the major price

Taywood Homes is turning profits up £8m, property mak- its housing development focus towards city centres. It is also part of the consortium that will develop the 1,400-home Greenwich Millennium Village.

Construction companies have already felt the crunch of the market slowdown. Tony Alexander, the chairman of Marley, the building materials group, said signs of a let-down came at the end of last year.

"New housing activity was stronger in the first half [of 1997], particularly in the Southeast, but this improvement tailed off as the year progressed." he said. Marley said the strong pound cut £4m from operating profits.

Throughout the industry, housing and general construction contracts are expected to rise 3 per cent in 1998. according to Mr Foster, but intense rises on par with last a 1997 pre-tax profit of £82.1m, rises of last year are behind us". year's numbers are not forecast.

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



THESE are unsertling times if you are a eurobond salesman for Russia. Mikhail Zadornov, Russia's Minister of Finance, completed a roadshow last week across seven European cities to stump up interest in a DM1bn eurobond being issued by the country.

The sales tour took in Frankfurt on Thursday and London on Friday, where Mr Zadornov extolled Russia's markets and gave a portrait of the country's reform measures. SBC Warburg and

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell were lead underwriters to the issue, and were look-

ing forward to fat fees from the deal. Then on Monday President Yeltsin sacked his entire government, including Mr Zadornov, who heard about it in Hamburg. The eurobond was pulled. pending more "stability" in the bond markets.

Word does not reach me of Mr Zadornov's fate, but I am happy to report that the eurobond issue was back on track vesterday, and with it the investment bankers' fees, which is after all what really matters.

JAMES Heneage, the 40-year-old cofounder and managing director of Ottakar's, the bookshop chain due to float next month, named the company after a childhood obsession, he tells me. The name refers to King Ottokar's Sceptre, from Herge's series of Tintin books, in which the King's sceptre in a fictional Eastern European state becomes the centre of attempts to overthrow the state.

Mr Hencage decided to avoid any potential copyright conflicts with Tintin's present owners by changing the middle 'o' in his store's name to an 'a'. I still think "Captain Haddock" would have made a splendid name for a bookshop.

Anyway. Mr Heneage and his co-

founder and non-executive chairman. Philip Dunne, have built the chain up from nothing in 1987 to 47 stores today, 15 of them opening in the last year. They've avoided head-on competition with the heavyweights like Waterstone and Books etc by opening in market towns and the like, from Brighton and Banbury to Llandudno and East Kilbride.

Mr Heneage spent most of his previous career with Ogiky & Mather as an account director. Mr Dunne, 39, is a corporate financier who worked for SG Warburg and Pheonix Securities, and is currently managing director of Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, the American investment bank.

The team also includes Neil Lloyd, 32, the finance director, who trained with accountants Baker Tilly and was financial controller of Harvey Nichols during its flotation. John Thornton, 54, chairman of Thorntons chocolates, is also on the board as a non-executive director.

CONGRATULATIONS to the emerg ing markets settlements team from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's back office, who drank their way to victory at the Hogshead City Beer Challenge on Monday night.

This isn't as bad as it sounds; Tom Craven and his DMG colleagues didn't actually win the contest by drinking

more than anyone else. They simply had to identify eight beers from a list of 20. It was all for charity. The evening attracted 18 teams from the Square Mile and raised £5,000 for the Richard Langhorn trust. Over 40 teams competed in four heats, and the DMG team only won after a nail-biting sudden

death play-off (or should that he drink-off?) in the final, with four other teams on equal scores. The runners-up were, in descending order; Lambs to the Slaughter (Lloyd's Chambers); Anglo Rom; Old Street Slappy Happy Chappies (ACT Financial Systems); IMRO, and

Richards Butler. Mr Craven and his seven colleagues have won an all-expenses-paid weekend trip to the Caledonian Brewery in Edinburgh, where they will sample everything the company has to offer.

Sounds like DMG had better start recruiting back-office replacements immediately. They'll never find their way back to the airport.

OUR commiscrations to Sir Bruce MacPhail, managing director of P&O, who missed the press briefing yesterday for the best set of annual results in years. Lord Sterling, chairman. said Sir Bruce was not there "because he has a gut problem". Our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

THE POWER BEHIND POWER

Roll-out of home delivery service boosts iceland sales

ICELAND, the frozen food retailer seen as a high street struggler a year ago, reported a huge surge in sales yesterday, boosted by its national roll-out of home delivery. Same store sales rose 4.4 per cent last year and are 16 per cent ahead in current trading, though the company admitted that level was not sustainable. Iceland shares rose 10 per cent to 197.5p as analysts upgraded profit forecasts. This was in spite of a dip in profits from £56m to £43.5m. Iceland is now testing home shopping, which will enable customers to tele-Investment column, page 24 phone orders in from home.

Bluebird finds counter bidder

BLUEBIRD Toys yesterday said it had received approaches which may or may not lead to an offer from a company other than Guiness Peut Group, whose hostile bid it continues to resist. Bluepird said it continued to urge shareholders to reject a bid from GPG, adding that GPG told it last week that it had received accuptances of its bid representing only 0.05 per cent of Bluebird. Bluebird said it had received the offers since the GPG bid was announced on 19 January, but offered no further details. A further announcement will be made as soon as possible, it said.

Speciality Shops in £37m deal

SPECIALITY Shops, a subsidiary of Milner Estates, is selling a portfolio of four properties in a £37m deal. Waverley Shopping Centre in Edinburgh, is being sold to Scottish Metropolitan Property, which already has a 50 per cent stake in Waverley, which comrises 57 retail units and a food court. It is buying the restfor £25m. neciality Shoos is se. dia for £12.55m.

EU clears hotel sale to Bass

BASS's acquisition of the Intercontinental Hotels & Resorts chain from Japan's Saison Group was cleared by European Union regulators yesterday, boosting Bass's presence in the huxury hotel market and expanding its hotel business outside the UK. The European Commission said it cleared the \$2.9bn (£1.8bn) purchase after a month-long investigation showed that Bass would not "create or strengthen a dominant position which would significantly impede competition".

Matalan plans flotation

taff to

uits

abour

sleaze

MATALAN, which operates a fast-growing chain of out-of-town clothing stores, yesterday announced plans to seek a listing on the Inndon Stock Exchange in a flotation that is expected to value it ahout £200m. The news came as the company announced record results for the year to 31 December, showing sales up 24 per cent to £229.6m and an 87 per cent lift in pre-tax profit to £12.7m.

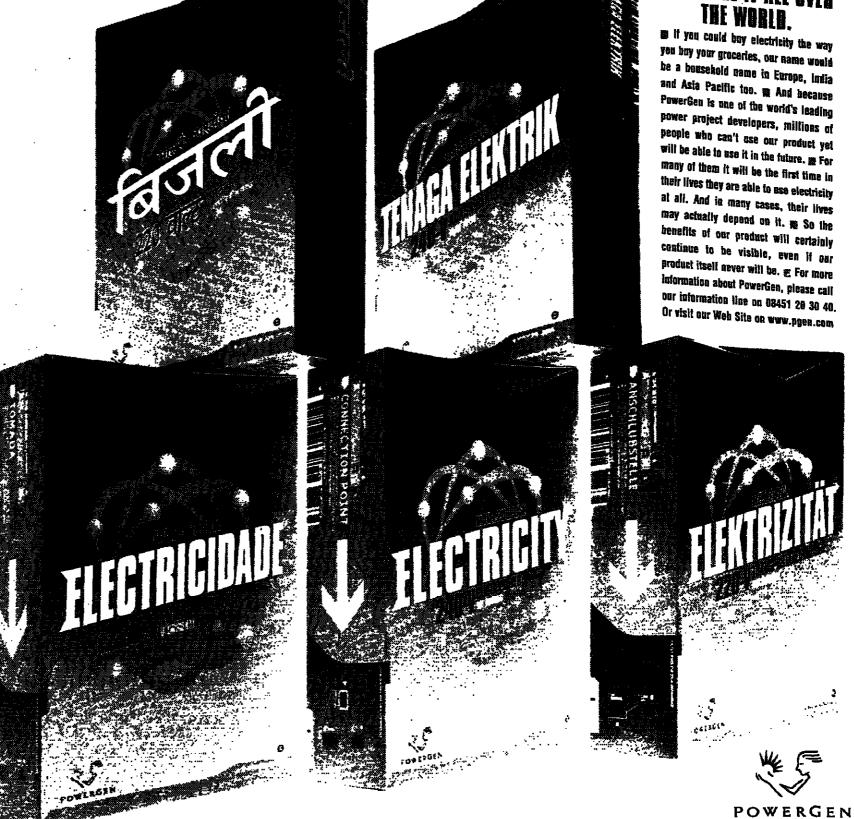
Britannic profits rise

BRITANNIC Assurance, which specialises in selling insurance to people on low incomes, yesterday posted a rise in operating profit to £174m last year from £82m in 1996. The figures included a profit on the embedded value of its life and pensions funds of £93m. Britannic shares gained 43.5p to close at 1,356p.

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Divident
	600.7m (317.6m)	45.4m (23.4m)	2.9p (2.4p)	20p (20p)
Appregate lads. (F)	· (·)	9.79m (8.82m)	8.00 (5.90)	3.0p(2.8p) 1.5p (1.0p)
Asda Property (F)	81.08m (63.44m)	3 (13m (1.1m)	5.25p (3.85p)	1.20 (1.44)
Avoaside Group (F)	223.0m (197.7m)	30.5m (27.76m)	46.1p (40.1p)	17.20 (16.0
Breminer (F)	100.7m (88.5m)	15.86m (14.43m)	16.30 (14.320)	3,35p (3.0) 10,35p (10.
Receivere (ntert. (F)	429 Im (447.6m)	39.2m (42.9m)	19,40 (21.60)	8.750 (7.70
Coda (F)	297.6m (291.9m)	6 17m (5.12m)	18.5p (13.5p)	0.75p (0.25p
Dagenbara Weters (F)	32,77m (14.64m)	2.372m (0.566m)	3.17p (1.69p)	6.3p (8.3p)
S (Families (F)	275m (207.15m)	6 1m (8.1m)	10.40 (15.30)	18.0p (IVa)
Datroutech (F)	898,4m (950m)	-27 5m (45.6m)	-293p (152p)	2.85p (2.5p
(Isla (F)	67.94m (55.58m)	1.17m (0.866m)	7.19p (5.33p)	25.0p (25.0
EC Group (F)	30.01m (31.13m)	16.96m (12.56m)	41.5p (28.1p)	· (-)
Edinbry Food Mayes (F)	84.21m (65 07m)	-8.2m (-14.25m)	-3.5p (-12.5p)	13.20 (12.7
Fiextech (F)	124bn (1.32bn)	89.4m (86.3m)	24.8p (22.8p)	1.3p (n/a)
Glyaneti (F)	13.30m (8.17m)	2.5m (2.08m)	9.7p (8.3p)	6.750 (0/a)
Greates Green (1)	10.25m (7.47m)	0.94m (0.60m)	14.8p (10.9p)	9.250 (6.00
Hakters Technology (F)	1.320n (1.29bn)	38.8m (6.8m)	13.7p (-15.4p)	9230 (0.0)
Heating (F)	1,3204 (1,2004)	43.5m (56.2m)	14,75p (13,15c	15.4p (0.4 <u>p)</u>
iceland(F)	1.57bn (1 43bn)	2 83m (-2.98m)	-15.5p (-25.7p)- []
ndepaedent Radio (F)	3.59m (2.25m)	53.6m (85.0m)	10.7p (9.4p)	5.40 (5.00)
Harley (F)	582.2m (700.1m)	31.5m (24.34m).	9.3p (7.0p)	320 (2.850
Happit (F)	265 lm (256.3m)	11,6m (6.4m)	7.8p (6.2p)	0.8p (nii)
Reseastle Utd. (I)	37.0m (26.6m)	(04P 0 mm)	4.486 (6.14p)	5.750(5.75
Nevera (F)	215.9m (134.9/n	78.9m (65.6m)	54.50 (63.30)	17.50 (22.1
hycestès Amersham (N)	488 1m (38) 5m)		3020 (0.20)	(14(14))
(Labity Software (F)	**************************************	2.7m (0 028m)	6.67p (6.09)	3,3p (3.0p)
Pemberstone (F)	16.89m (9.40m)	3.55m (2 07m)	53.1p (40.1p)	30.5p (30.5
	5 62 tro (7,090s)	433.9m (332.6m)	4.42p (3.91p)	1.7p (1.4p)
P&0 (F)	139.6m (118.4m)	14.79m (12.18m)	1,420 (a.e. (a)	21 65 (17)
Antisod Rust (F)	101.4m (88.4m)		2930 (3.089)	1.3p (1.2p)
Savoy Helai (F)	_	4 83m (4.90m)		23.0p(n/a)
Scattish Metropolitze (1)		10.7m(9.43m)	50.0p(44.2p)	10.0p(5.25
Secure Yeast (F)	-(-) 121 12m(68.12m) 9.2m(4.5m)	32.3p(16.3p)	4.50(3.750
Severised-Resut (F)	1306(1,190)	- 27 Tm(73.3m)	14.20(12.00)	(M)
Taylor Woodrow (F)		A 238m (0.410m)	0.12p(0.12p)	79p(7.8p)
ligten &Southert (I)	7.35m(6.18m) 108.12m(38.20m	1 6 24m(9.05m)	13.3p(19.5p)	130(140)
N	108 1300(38 500)	1 422 1111		
(f) fines (f) become	(N) Nine Mandis			

William (V	
TOURIST RATES Australia (dollars) 2.454 Austria (schillings) 20.86 Belgium (francs) 61.27 Canada (\$) 0.8632 Genrus (pounds) 11.39 Genraark (kroner) 1.39 Fenland (markka) 9.9538 France (francs) 2.9797 Gerece (drachmel) 12.59 Hong Kong (\$) 1.788	traly (lira) 2,940 japan (yen) 25,20 Matea (lira) 0.645 Necheriands (guiders) 3,3453 Norway (troner) 23,4 Portugal (escudos) 301,24 Spain (pescus) 251,26 South Africa (rand) 7,9789 Switzerland (franes) 12,95 Switzerland (franes) 386,347 USA (\$) Source Thomas Cook





Leader Lara goes his own way and passes important first test

NO West Indies captain has In Lara's case, instant success, been more diligently groomed even a narrow 2-1 advantage. for the post, more actively pro- was more critical. moted for it or more openly a longer or more contentious in Pakistan, heavily beaten in all that he won.

leaguered counterpart, and captain, spoke of a lack of pride Richie Richardson and Court- and commitment in the team. ney Walsh, Lara's predecessors, There were snide suggestions the one criterion by which all gerheads and that Lara (average captains are ultimately judged.

The West Indies had just recoveted it. None came to it by turned from a disastrous series route. So how has Brian Larn three Tests, when his appointfared in the first series at the ment instead of Walsh was conhelm? The simple answer is firmed in early January. Walsh himself and the tour manager As Mike Atherton, his be- Clive Lloyd, the former revered

was such that there were serious doubts whether he was temperamentally capable of handling the responsibility. His publicised tantrums had brought him before the West Indies Cricket Board's disciplinary committee four times in the past couple of years. Lara was under

the microscope and he knew it. In the past two and a half months he has not put a foot wrong off the field and not have painfully discovered, it is that Walsh and Lara were at log-much on the field either. A smile has seldom been far from his handsome face, he has

Lara's disciplinary record West Indies' new captain was under the microscope but was bold in securing a vital series victory. Tony Cozier reports

during an over with a sugges-

When Philo Wallace, the pow-

they never let him down.

been co-operative and com- around that the great fast fortable with the media and bowler was about to retire. clearly at ease with his players. He depended heavily on them,

Realising the value of ex-repeatedly approaching both perience around him, he courted Walsh when the displaced tion or a pat on the back and captain took a week deciding whether he would continue. He personally emphasised to Curt- cant suggestions Lara encourly Ambrose his essential worth aged his newer players, too. when rumours were flying

returned to a standing ovation from around the ground. Lara, next man-in, pointedly

waited on the dressing-room steps, himself applauding, so that Wallace, in his third Test, had the stage all to himself. On the field he has not been

tactically inhibited by the newness of his assignment, sometimes to the point of obvious error. But, as always, he has been prepared to be guided by instinct rather than orthodoxy. He baffled in Port of Spain

open the bowling rather than Ambrose and Waish. In Georgetown, his delay in calling up Am-ries than any West Indian spinbrose for the second new ball with England on 84 for 7 was

against Graham Thorpe, who the earlier Tests. Within in a couple of overs. Thorpe was edging Hooper to slip but by then he had a 104 to his name.

than any recent West Indies skip- was to win. He has done that.

erful opener was out for a with his use of Kenny Ben- per has done, a legacy of his updazzling 92 in the final Test, he jamin and Nixon McLean to bringing in Thinidad. The upshot was that Hooper's off-breaks claimed more wickets in the sener since Lance Gibbs 21 years earlier and the leg-spinner Dihard to fathom as was his neglect nanath Rammarine enjoyed an in Bridgetown of Carl Hooper encouraging introduction to Test cricket. It has given the athad not handled him capably in tack a refreshing balance and we

> Lara would have appreciated the luxury of being able to blood a few younger players but But he relied on spin more the object, first and foremost,

Verve and nerve undoes sad Seles

Tennis

By John Roberts in Key Biscayne

THE saddest sight of the week so far at the Lipton Championships here was of the once great Monica Seles, 24, her fighting spirit intact but her body sagging for the want of fitness, labouring to defeat at the hands of Anna Kournikova, a 16year-old picture of vitality.

Kournikova's verve filled the Centre Court again yesterday as she dismantled Conchita Martinez, the 1994 Wimbledon champion, 6-3, 6-0, barely breaking stride from one point to the next. That took the 25th-ranked Kournikova into a quarter-final against the second seed, Lindsay Davenport.

Beating Seles, however, was a special event for Kournikova, whose maturing talent, it will be remembered, took her to the player. I remember her playing had no feeling of whether it was Wimbledon semi-finals last year. She squealed with delight after winning, 7-5, 6-4, describing the success as "prob-

ably my most enjoyable victory". style. I try to play the same way." There was no spite in the statement. Quite the contrary. same way, chiefly from memo- ian seemed to be heading for

Americanised play against her. I feel great that I played against her and that I and I will always admire her."

One day Kournikova might tell her grandchildren about the time she beat her tennis idol. We ule? "At this point, I really trust that she will not gloss over the point that Seles, distraught by her father's illness and out of condition after two months' an almost matroidy figure.

Kournikova expressed compassion. "I feel bad for her, for her dad, for what happened to her [when she was stabbed in 1993]," she said, "I think she was the greatest ever. If nothing had Slams, or whatever.

was the young and upcoming French Opens against Steffi [Graf], when I was like eight years old or something. I like to produce upsets, Yevgeny her game, her very aggressive

"Monica's always been the play-ry, although her thoughts have the quarter-finals after taking

Russian since her father's health deteexplained. "It was my dream to riorated. She only competed at the Lipton because it is not too far from the family's Florida won, of course. But I just want home. "I'm just going to take it to say that she's a great athlete a day at a time." Seles said. "That's what I kind of decided coming into Lipton." Was Wimbledon still part of her sched-

don't know."

Unsurprisingly, there were few glimpses of Seles's fierce shot-making of old, even when absence from tournaments, cut she was dominating the match against Kournikova. "I haven't really worked much on anything the last few months," she said. "I don't have that confidence to finish the match off, which has been happening the past year, since I took my practice hours happened to her, I think she down. I'm just not serving would win another 20 Grand enough. The timing is not there. gave away too many easy "When I was growing up, she shots on key points. I left the ball, and let the ball bounce. I

going in or out." The men's singles continued Kafelnikov, the sixth seed, joining Pete Sampras, the world No Seles is also trying to play the 1, on the sidelines. The Russ-



Anna Kournikova unleashes a double-handed backhand in her 7-5, 6-4 victory over Monica Seles

is on the other side of the net together and prospered, 3-6, 6-3,

er that I admired most," the established a different priority the opening set of his match yes- the ATP Tour's experiment of and talk with their players dur- use mobile phones to contact

terday, but when Jeff Tarango having coaches on the court, as in Davis Cup ties. Starting in anything can happen. On this Hong Kong on 6 April, coach- to 120 seconds. Players without watching on television? "Nothoccasion, the turbulent Amer- es will be part of the scene in a travelling coach will be able ican simply put his game Atlanta, Munich, Gstaad and

Los Angeles. Unlike the Davis Cup, the Dates have been released for coaches will only come on court

These will be extended from 90 to nominate someone else, a doubles partner, say, subject to

the approval of the supervisor. Would players be allowed to is it good to talk?

ing change-overs after sets. their coach if he is unable to attend the event but maybe ing in the rules prevents a player phoning up his coach," said Weller Evans, vice-president of ATP Tour player services. But

Matt Singer taking over from

the Calcutta Cup injury fall-out

yesterday, but they were able to

count on Nick Popplewell's ser-

vices at loose head. The re-

Newcastle were still assessing

Gavin Johnson at full-back.

Pakistan recover their ground

Cricket

Zimbabwe 277 & 268 Pakistan 354 & 58-1

PAKISTAN lost an early wicket yesterday in their quest to win the second and final Test against Zimbabwe in Harare. Set 192 to win, Pakistan closed the fourth day on 58 for 1.

The opener Saeed Anwar was 38 not out and Mohammad Wasim eight at stumps, having shared an unbroken 44-run stand for the second wicket. They came together in the third over of the innings following the dismissal of the makeshift opener Azhar Mahmood for nine. The Pakistan all-rounder, forced into his new role because Ali Naqvi has a sprained ankle. edged Heath Streak to Alistair

Campbell at second slip. Pakistan had earlier dismissed Zimbabwe for 268 in their second innings - a total largely due to an eighth-wicket partnership of 50 between Streak and Bryan Strang, They joined forces after the loss of Murray Goodwin before tea for 81 and frustrated the Pakistani

bowlers with a dogged stand. However, when Strang topedged a sweep off the leg-spinner Mushtag Ahmed, the rest of the batting folded easily, leaving Streak unbeaten on 37. Wasim Akram took the last two wickets to fall to finish with three for 70, although the pick of the bowlers was Mahmood with 3 for 26.

Earlier, the overnight pair of f Goodwin and Andy Flower pu on 95 for the fourth wicket, after resuming on 82 for 3. Flower fell for 49, but Goodwin went on to his fifth Test half-century, his second in the match, before edging Waqar Younis to first slip.

Memogric 12 tot a) W Goodwin e Inzernam b Waqar A Flower e Inzernam b Mushtaq J Whatait e Rashid b Mahmood .. N Madondo e Rashid b Mahmood .

Avenue Turnis et l'Avenue 6-2-11-1, Whitest 3-0-5-0, Milangwe 2-0-11-0; Hucide 2-0-15-0; Strang 1-0-4-0, L'Implines: R B Tiffin (Zirn) and S G Rendell (Aus). ● Ed Giddins, the former England A pace bowler, will comolete his rehabilitation from a 19-month ban from county cricket for taking cocaine when he flies out on Warwickshire's pre-season tour to South Africa today. His suspension expires next Wednesday,

Fish batters Krantz's ear

AFTER the perils of the Southern Ocean comes a new danger for the crews in the Whitbread Round the World Race – flying fish.

Gunnar Krantz, the skipper of Swedish Match, was left with earache after a close encounter with airborne marine life on day 11 of the sixth leg from Brazil to Florida. "Luckily. I had just put my hood up when the fish banged into my ear." Krantz said. "It was pretty violent crash. I could hear the bells long afterwards."

The leg leader. EF Language, has also had problems with the masses of flying fish the flect is encountering as it approaches the turning point of the island of Barbuda. "They get scooped up in the water that ends up on the deck and get in our sail bags, sheet bags etc," the skipper, Paul Cayard, reported. Cayard has now stretched his

lead over Britain's Silk Cut to

lead over Britain's Silk Cut to more than 20 miles.

WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (sidn leg, 4,750 miles, 550 Sebastiko, Bra, to Fort Lauderdale, USI: 1 EF Language (Swe) F Coyard 1757 miles to firsts: 2 Sa Cut (GB) L Smith 203 miles behnd leader: 3 Innovation Kasemer (Not) K Frostad +435: 4 Swedish Melch (Swe) G Krantz +44; 5 Merit Cup (Monaco) G Delfon +556: 6 Cressis: Racing (US) J Kostoda +845: 7 Teshba (US) P Standbridge + 1023: 8 Brunel Sunergy (Netr) R Heiner + 127: 9 EF Education (Swe) C Guifou + 1718

King finally ready to resume his throne

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

ALEX KING celebrated the latest of his many returns to fitness yesterday by gambling a few hard-earned shillings on the fruit machine situated in a corner of the Wasps clubhouse. It was a risky venture; England's forgotten outside-half has suffered such mind-blowing misfortune this season that he fully expected to hit the jackpot and then get paid in old 50p pieces.

Still, things are about to look up for the stand-off who has turned rank had luck into an art form. King is an odds-on favourite to put months of inter- sorted for the Wasps run-in.

mittent injury frustration beweekend's Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final with Sale at Loftus Road, "I'll be very disappointed if I'm not picked." he admitted.

Selected on merit for England's first pre-Christmas international against Australia, King withdrew 48 hours before the match when he realised that his dodgy right knee was not up to scratch following keyhole surgery. On suffering subsequent problems during the Premiership game in January, he gave up the Five Nations as a bad job and sidestepped all rugby for two months to try to get himself

in the Wasps line-up for this so I decided to bite the bullet and take some time out," he said yesterday. "It's been difficult, inhated every minute of the last couple of months. But the rest and constant physiotherapy seems to have done the trick; I've played two second-team games recently, really physical tests

> Irish second-string, and I'm feeling right on top of things again." Wasps will not name their side until tomorrow but with Paul Sampson, their rookie full-back. struggling with ankle trouble, they will probably play Gareth Rees at full-back - on the nar-

Dublin two weeks earlier but

against the Navy and the London

"Basically, I got sick to the row Loftus Road pitch, the ous recent slip-ups at Rich- midfield to right wing, with hind him and reclaim his place back teeth of hobbling around, foursquare Canadian constitutes mond and Gloucester gave Bath a one-man blanket defence - and reinstate King as a crafty playmaker. Sale should also be at full credibly frustrating, and I've strength; their worry surrounds their hooker, Steve Diamond, who has shingles, although Davis Rees, Tom Beim and Jos Baxendell are nursing niggles.

London's other band of knock-out hopefuls, Saracens, must first negotiate tonight's huge Premiership rumble at Newcastle before worrying about in-form Northampton at Franklins Gardens in the pick of Saturday's semis. This evening's combatants appeared to have the winning of the title between them until simultane-

an unexpected foot in the door. Nevertheless, the head-to-head at Kingston Park remains the most important Allied Dunbar match of the campaign so far.

Kyran Bracken, the England scrum-half, and Philippe Sella, the veteran French centre now in the final few weeks reer, will both turn out for Saracens tonight. Bracken has recovered from the shoulder in-Cup cap on Sunday, while Sella has completed a mandatory The selectorial resbuffle sees

spected Irish Lion has committed himself to another two seasons in the North-east but at 32, be will of a marvellously satisfying ca-call time on his international career at the end of the season. "You can't go on forever and I'm not getting any younger," he iury that cost him a Calcutta explained. Tonight's little encounter with Sarries, in which

he goes eyeball to eyeball with three-week concussion lay-off. his countryman, Paul Wallace, will put a good few years on Ryan Constable move from both of them.

Holyfield arranges Akinwande title defence

EVANDER HOLYFIELD will defend his World Boxing Association heavyweight title against the Briton Henry Akinwande on 6 June at Madi-

"There are just a few little details to work out," said Marina Capuro, of the American cable channel Showtime. which will handle the pay-perview distribution of the fight.

The fight will be Holyfield's first since he stopped Michael Moorer in November. An official announcement is expected

next Monday. Another British heavyweight, Herbie Hide, has been forced to move the first defence son Square Garden, New York. of his World Boxing Organisation title against the American Obed Sullivan to Manchester's Nynex Arena on 18 April.

Hide was originally sched-

has been forced to make the switch because Steve Robinson's challenge for Luisito Espinosa's WBC featherweight crown has had to be postponed following a bereavement in the champion's family.

Robinson, who will now face Espinosa at the end of May or beginning of June, will still fight on the Manchester promotion in a 10-round contest as part of his preparation for the uled to appear on a bill in title contest.

Local council decide to make Bison extinct Ice hockey

BASINGSTOKE BISON will cease to be a Superleague team at the end of this month after the franchise owners, Basingstoke and Deane Council, withdrew fi-

nancial support yesterday. At a special meeting of the borough council, it was agreed that a Superleague team will not continue to operate from the Basingstoke Ice Rink and Lido. The news is the second ma-

last 24 hours after the American businessman Blake Cullen chose to pull out of the running for the Birmingham franchise on Monday.

Basingstoke council's sport and recreation manager, Neil Cole, said: "The recommendation to withdraw from the Superleague for the 1998/99 cess of £300,000. Professional

jor blow to Superleague in the senior ice hockey will be fully considered, at other levels, for the 1998/99 season. Junior ice hockey development, skating lessons and public skating will continue to operate at the site."

The Superleague chief exccutive, Ian Taylor, said: "Although this is a setback for the sport, we have substantial interest from operators who season was approved due to the are interested in franchises large financial implication, across the UK and we anticipate which would have been in ex- more teams joining Superleague in the future."

Nilsson: Ambush mentality

Light arrives after dark days for Oxford's sole Swede

the first, and only, Swedish carsman to row in the Boat Race when he starts for Oxford on Saturday. There should have been two.

"I was rowing in the Swedish national team with Fredrik Hulten when we decided to apply together to do postgraduate work in Oxford," Nilsson said, "Then, last May, after we had won our places, he was killed in a car crash. I was really devastated by his death. He was three years older and had taught me so much about rowing and sculling. We talked about it all the time."

no partner to race with at the without his friend to accompany him to the Dark Blue spires. ill luck and tragedy, he tells Hugh Matheson

Hulten had been the best sculler in Sweden for a decade. He was honoured throughout the season with a minute's silence at international regattas. He left a vacuum behind for his team members and for many of them a sense that it would now be even harder to make a mark on the world scene. For Nilsson, the place waiting for him at Oxford was a relief and, almost as importantly, a chance to fulfil his

Nilsson was left alone, with Henrik Nilsson's progress to a place in 1997 World Championships and Saturday's Boat Race has been dogged by

> the crew is sometimes higher than in the Swedish national team," he said. Nilsson lives in the old Oxford University Boat House with two other oarsmen, including Jürgen Hecht, who sits behind him in the crew, and the cox, Alex Greancy.

The group and the com- men led by a president, Andrew petition within it for places in Lindsay, who will be 21 today. "He has a strong personality and consults with the coach, Sean

At 29, the Swede finds him-

Bowden, who sets the standards and then Andrew sees that we carry them out," Nilsson said. Nilsson grew up in Sweden's deep south at Lund and after high school there went into the iy to prove the more powerful army for 15 months' military ser-

ficer who first learned and then taught soldiers to "dig in and cover ourselves and to live for days if necessary without supplies in enemy territory. We were meant'to reconnoitre their positions and to stay buried, or at least out of sight. Sometimes the career. In his first internationtanks drove right over the holes

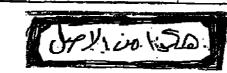
Oxford may well need this ambush mentality on Saturday, when the Light Blues are likeoff the start and, if they get a run vice. He was drafted into the at it, very hard to stop. One who self in a group of much younger Spanare, a unit that specialised has been trained to dig in and

in working in small groups be- survive on scraps and then to four by one-tenth of a second hind enemy lines. He was an of- stop the Soviet tanks in their and spent the next two years in tracks should be well equipped the wilderness training alone. for a race which may well be a

> than simply a product of his military training. He has suffered Under-23 World Championships in Linz, Austria, and ended up in intensive care with blood poisoning. At the next year's competition he got food poisoning at Naro in Sicily. In 1992 he missed Olympic selec-

In 1995, however, Thor copy of 1997 and go all the way. Nilsen, a Norwegian, took the Nilsson's urge to win is more Swedish team under his wing and convinced Nilsson he had the potential to race at the highill luck throughout his rowing est level, and took the Swedish quadruple scull to sixth place al season he was chosen for the in the Olympic final in Atlanta.

The follow-up season went badly wrong. Nilsson broke his leg skiing and, just as he returned to training. Hulten died Nilsson has much to prove on Saturday and wants a winner's medal, as much for his friend's tion in the Swedish coxless memory, as for himself.



عكذا من الاجل

Fittingly, McCoy reached

the 222 mark in a selling hur-

dle and, appropriately, it was on

who has supplied him with 134

of his wins and also enabled

Earlier, McCoy had earned

praise from a trainer of a dif-

opening race by kicking clear on

Lannkaran, who is in the care

and that's why he's the champi-

on jockey," Forster said. "He just

seized the opportunity to go clear

and an ordinary jockey would not

When Scudamore set his

record - or indeed Jonja

would get a bollocking."

"Nobody told him to do that

to hold on to

:ence

By John Cobb

THE LEGIONS who believe

that Tony McCoy's judgement of

horseflesh has been as big a fac-

tor in his rise as his skills in the

saddle should pay heed to his

words at Chepstow last night af-

ter he equalled the record num-

nied McCoy the 223rd success

this term that would have

pushed him past the mark es-

tablished by Peter Scudamore

in 1989, but the record will not

as Doctoor seems to have a win-

Among the rider's achieve-

where his five wins equalled

ments at Cheltenham last week

ning chance," McCoy said.

Exeter

2.20 Obelos (nb)

3.20 Leap Frog

2.50 Relative Chance

be safe for long. "I should do it words as to how he has smashed

in the first at Ludlow tomorrow Scudamore's record with more

HYPERION

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Bright-hand, undulating course. Stiff test of stamins. Fun-in of 250 years.

Course is 5m SW of Exeter on ASB. ADMISSIONE Grandstand & Paddock STI; Saver Hing SS. CAR PARK: 52 on rails; 52 in club; remainder free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe of winners into 256 numers (autoess rate 252%). Misse H Knight 34-113 (201%). P Hobbs 27-28 (21%). R Front 17-53 (22%).

LEADING GOING: Phobbs 27-28 (21%). R Front 17-53 (22%).

B Powell 34-113 (501%). P Hobbs 27-28 (21%). R Front 17-53 (22%).

B Powell 34-113 (501%). S Burrough 6-84 (71%).

FAYOURITES: 199 with from 57 races (355%).

BLINGERED FIRST TIME: Into The West (320), River Room (450).

2.20 ROBERT WEBS TRAVEL NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS 6) 22,300 added 2m 2f Penalty Value £1,909

1 305F0 BALOS (20) (8 & T Racing Cub) W G M Turner 5 11 2. A Thornton B E DEANO SCRIPT (4) (4 Ribuspraid) Mar S Willerms 5 12 2. R Greene 3 00 CRATAIN RUSTLER (22) (Hardison) Hallows A P. Jones 5 11 2. S Michell 4 0.6402 (MING OF THE BLUES (37) (SP) (in Walkinson) J King 6 11 2. W Manusion 5 46030 OBELOS (85) (Forty Sanciers) R Flost 7 11 2. R Johnson 5 12 303322 THOMAS CROWN (86) (SP) (D. L Willerms) D Willerms B 11 2. R Johnson S 10 205F12 MISS ONDER (9) (CM A) J & R F Balarhamy M Flost 7 10 3 4 10 9 3 J Beane 5 F6 PERSISTENCE PAYS (9) (Macsis O'Cornell) W G M Turner 4 10 8. D Virco PETTING: 5-4 Mian Ondea. 4-1 Obelox. 5-1 King O'T The Blues, 6-1 Ballos, 8-1 Thornes Crown,

Ballos was very weak in the betting and fell early on in a poor maiden cleimer at Heretord last month. Ballos, who's since figured prominently in atronger company, may well get
the better of the argument on this occasion, but he hasn't been one to rely on for some
time and MISS ONDEE should have the mesure of both. Miss Ondes, who's sarly runs
may flatter her, tell at the first when long odds on for a weak claimer at Wincastron in January and then had a righ impossible task with her big weight in testing ground here. Merawang was fer too good for her at Taumton lest time but she'll be difficult to best with her
lighter weight on today's ground. Obelos might have won instead of being a close third
in a Taunton seller in November had he not lost momentum when hitting the scoond last.
He's reced only once since – in a better race there at the end of December – but four
winners at Newton Abbot last Wednesday shows the sort of form his stable is in. Thomse
Crown's form figures are a little flattering.

Selection: MSS ONDEE

2.50 AXWORTHYS' PRINT AND DESIGN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,500 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £3,353

(CLASS U) EA,50U REDOUGHT OF IT FEBRUARY VEHICLE
SPECI TELY (7) (0) (Chande Racho) A Street 8 tr 7 (5ac)
SPECI TELY (7) (0) (Chande Racho) A Street 8 tr 7 (5ac)
2USPE PERMICALER (7) (Mrs. Anoxa. Taylor) P Hotho 8 tl 4
3-2P5 RELATIVE CHANGE (25) (Ries S Doughes Pennand) (Mrg. 9 20 ts
6P5FP0 COUNTRY STORE (55) (Whatfield Racho) A P Jones 9 to 5
304525 RALLY URA (15) (P Rodiced) P Rodiced To 0
44000 MAPPY HORSE (47) (0) (Mrg. In Merring) N Reside to 100
— 7 dacherd—
Introductive Country Store, 7-1 (Notes 10 to 10

BETTING: 5-4 Miss Ondee, 4-1 Obelos, 5-1 King Of The Bloos, 6-1 Belios, 8-1 The 20-1 Beatro Script. 25-1 Persistence Pave. 33-1 Cautain Restier

Failure in the last race de-

ber of wins in a season.

urt challenge

ges of murder

The Market יין האורייין.

or or parage.

rians

Winners

that Whi. a beca xi: také plac

post raid

ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

4.00: 1. POMME SECRET (A P McCoy)

FONTWELL

2.10: 1. CIPRIANI QUEEN (P Hide) 4-1;

2. Night in A Million 6-1; 2. Hurricone Jene
11-2. Brien. 7-2 fav Caractol (aft) 2, Ind. (J.
Gifford), Tote: 15.20; 22:0, 21:00, 21:00. Dis.
ENDTO, CSF: 22:20. Tricost: 21218. Tric.
162:70.

2.40: 1. BEYOND OUR REACH (J His-ris) 4-1; 2. Sissinghurst Fiyer 4-1; 3. Nordic Spres 9-2 8 ran, 5-2 to Winnow

4.40: 1. BELMORE ROCK (J.Lover) 100-30; 2. Bavardier 15-6 fay; 3. Smaggler's Point 10-1 8 ran. 1½, 5, M Phoj. Toke: \$30; \$190, \$10, \$270, 05; \$276, 05; \$1043 Hi-cest: \$308. Trio: £3880. Non Runner: Eq-usy's Darling. Placept: \$7750. Quadpot: £850. Place 8: £2720. Place 5: £1486.

UTTOXETER 2.20: 1, SEGALA (R McGrath) 3-1; 2. Crearise Chang 7-1; 3. Catasapo 11-1.9 mm. 1;-4 to Newtridge Boy (Sh), 4-18, (J.J. O'Nel, Perntih), Totas £200; £440, £160, £280, DF: CSBO, CSF: £2107; Tricast: £1627; Trica £880, NRs: Northern Maestro & Regal Ram-

merket). Tote: \$3.30; \$170; \$390; \$290; Dust Forecast: \$3610; \$397; \$3615; Tro: \$14310; Non Runners: Kerleil, Venice Beach, Wood-land Dove. 3.50: 1. BOLD CLASSIC (S Kelly) 7-2;

2. Smith Top 5-1; 3. Bullens Blay 7-2; 8 cm. 100-30 fav Flastey Wood (5th), 3, 2 (J Adam, Gordon) Total: £390; £150, £150, £170, DF: £170, CSF: £1888 Tricast £5822.

A20: 1. THE NEXT WALTZ (R Supple) 2-1 fav; 2. Dragone Bay 5-2: 3. Deef Quay 14-1 9 ren. 4. 8. (I. Lungo, Carutherstown) Renr 5250; \$140, \$150, \$442, DF: \$150, CSF: \$277. Tricase: \$2509 Trio; \$3340, NR: The Cooleston.



Tony McCoy and Pomme Secret, his record-equalling winner Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

few thought it would ever be something happens," McCoy Gold Cup or a selling hurdle." O'Neill's figure of 149 in 1978 - going to set new figures unless Prepare for take off.

beaten, but the question now is said, "but 300 winners in a seahow far McCoy will kick clear of son? Well I have got more the old mark. "Obviously I am chance of flying to the moon."

subsequent winner Calling Wild at Ultimeter last month. All good things come to an end, nowever, and Caperway was a tred fifth behind Calm Down at Warwick last time. Pen-nythoor Prince has to bounce back from a moderate performance at Ultimeter. As test-

GLASS E) £5,000 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £4,630

F222 SACON DUEC (13) (D) Sexon Dule Parinsering P Hobbs 7 II 10. ... Mr R Widger (7)
1/220 TOSKANO 698 (Sentestia Conservat Companie) D Willere 6 TI 10 ... Mr R Widger (7)
1/220 TOSKANO 698 (Sentestia Conservat Companie) D Willere 6 TI 10 ... Mr R Widger (7)
1/220 TOSKANO 698 (Sentestia Conservation R Almar 6 TI 4 ... A Thorston
1/220 SASSA LEAP FROOT (19) FORTO Companie (1) R Almar 6 TI 4 ... A Thorston
1/220 SASSA LEAP FROOT (19) (Leftery Hobbs) P Nothols 8 TI 2 ... T J Humpty 8
1/24-23 SASSA MR (22) (D) Alma G J Philips 7 Fortore 8 TI 1 ... S Wyone
1/2007 GEARMANS WARRER (22) Samy 8 Domes Shoth Nothols M Companie 8 TI 1 ... L Harvey
1/2007 SASSA SASSA MR (1) (S) (C) (J R Sam) R Buckler B TI 0 ... S Posedi
1/2007 MR (1) THE WICE (1/20) (F J Sanistury) Mis M Jones 7 TO 5 ... G Stopple (6) S
1/2008 RATHOLS M. (19) (S P Lamadown Racing) M Health-18 TI 0 2 ... Mr Macrolin
1/2008 RAGTIME BOY (24) (D) (F J Sanistury) Mrs M Jones 7 TO 2 ... Mr Macrolin
1/2008 RAGTIME BOY (24) (D) (B) Alma Control R 10 2 ... Mr Macrolin
1/2008 RAGTIME BOY (24) (D) (B) Alma Control R 10 2 ... Mr C Res
1/2008 RAGTIME BOY (24) (D) (B) Alma Mr Macrol B 10 0 ... Mr C Res
1/2008 RAGTIME BOY (24) (D) (B) MR Macrol B 10 0 ... Mr C Res
1/2008 RAGTIME BOY (24) (D) (B) MR Macrol B 10 0 ... Mr C Res
1/2008 RAGTIME BOY (24) (D) (B) MR Macrol B 10 0 ... Mr C Res
1/2008 RAGTIME BOY (24) (D) (B) MR Macrol B 10 0 ... Mr C Res
1/2008 RAGTIME BOY (24) (D) (B) MR Macrol B 10 0 ... Mr C Res

4.50 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E)

Grand Applause, a thoroughly exposed horse who's only win over hurdles was way t in 1993, ran his best race in ages when keeping on in third behind O'Nean and Mrs Em 20-1 Happy Hose
24-12-1 Happy Hose
25-1 Happy

Westwood on his way

Golf Andy Farrell

in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

LEE WESTWOOD, who has moved past his boyhood hero and Ryder Cup partner, Nick leading player, hopes to continue his successful run in America at the expense of winning the Order of Merit in Europe. Westwood, who tomorrow

makes his first appearance in the US Players' Championship, the biggest event of the year to date, has yet to finish outside the top-30 in six tournaments in the States. His latest was the Bay Hill Invitational last week, where the 24-year-old finished 13th. Yesterday, Westwood set off for his first look at the Stadium Course at the TPC at Sawgrass with Ernie Els. The practice round was set up over a beer to cylebrate the South African svic-

tory on Sunday night. Next week Westwood plays in the New Orleans Classic before the US Masters, where he was 24th on his debut last year. He will then play at least six more events over here, includand the World Series. "I want to play as much as I can over here," said Westwood, who has had to change his plans since Els took a commanding lead at the top of the European money list.

"I'm not playing enough in Europe to worry over being No! Paldo, to become England's on the Order of Merit, My goals have changed since the beginning of the year. The more you think about the World Championships events starting next year, the less being No 1 in Europe means."

At 20th on the world rankings, Westwood is now three places higher than Faldo, "When someone is your childhood idol you notice when you go past them on the rankings," he said.

The defending champion, Steve Elkington, had to pull out of the \$4m (£2.5m) event, having not recovered from surgery for a sinus problem last Thursday, but 46 of the top-50 in the world will be on show.

 Andrew Coltart, the Scot who won the Qatar Masters carlier this month, and his partner, Simon Norman, lost to lan Higgins and Simon McCarthy at the second extra hole in the first round of the Sunningdale Foursomes yesterday. They were ing the US Open, the USPGA never behind until the final putt.

Wigan no closer to Connolly

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

WIGAN'S hopes of settling the future of Gary Connolly before their Challenge Cup semifinal on Saturday are fading. The club wanted to finalise

new deal that would also involve gaining a release for the Great Britain centre from his Australian contract at a meeting with his advisors yesterday. are still looking for a top-class "There is still a problem over the length of a new con-

tract," said his manager, David

McKnight. "It is not what he has

been looking for. He still has the option of going to Australia or playing the other code." It is understood that Wigan have offered Connolly a three

or four-year deal, while the player is looking for five. Wigan have made just one change to the side for their into England at the weekend to

FA Carling Premiership

1 Bolton v Lek

Weekend fixtures and pools forecast

place of Mick Cassidy after his successful return as a substitute against St Helens. London have described reports that Tulsen Tollett will be

rejoining them as "premature". Tollett played well enough in the first season of Super League in 1996 to win a place on Great Britain's tour, but opted to join Harlequins last year. Now the rugby union club is

keen to cut costs and London stand-off.

John Lawless will return as hooker for Sheffield Eagles in Sunday's semi-final against Salford, in place of Darren Turner. Willie Morganson will come in for the suspended Keith Senior, provided he comes safely through a return in the A team tomorrow night.

A delegation from the Australian Rugby League is to fly semi-final against the London fight through the courts here for Broncos, promoting Denis £400,000 they claim they are Betts to the starting line-up in owed from the 1995 World Cup.

33 Mansfield v Peterborough....... 34 Notts County v Leyton Onent.

36 Strewsbury v Exeter.....

39 Swanses v Chester

Bell's Scottish League

Premier Division

41 Duntermine v Rangers

44 St Johnstone v Klimerovsk ...

Second Division

Five draws: Crystal Palace v totasrhum; Cneserteid v Milwai: Swarsea v Chesier; Celic v Heurs; Hiboman v Aberdran. Five menys: Huddersfield v QPR, Gliingham v Fuhem, Wyconbe v Bristol City: Durstermino v Rangers; Partick v Raith

r nangera; rassex v rasm? Ten homes: Coventry v Dorthy; Manchester Util v Wimblodon; Ipsaech v Reoding, Oxford v Norwich; Sunderland v Bury; Watford v Northempton; Coudfil v Brighton, Notts Coun-ty v Leyton Orient; Rochdale v Doncaster; Dunder v Stifring.

HYPERION 2.00 Doctoor 2.30 Bold Statement 3.00 Flow-ing Fortune 3.30 Eben Al Habeeb 4.00 Tellicherry 4.30 My Nominee 5.00 Mkry Leader

BETTING: 5-4 Mise Ondee, 4-1 Obstos, 5-1 Pro-20-1 Beamo Script, 25-1 Persistence Pays, 33-1 Captain Rr 1997: Fleet Cadet 6 11 2 G Supple 8-13 fav (N Pyrs) 11 can FORM GUIDE

GOING: Good.

Right-hand course.

Right-hand course.

Course is NW of from off A48 Ludiow station (Harsford - Streets-bury line) 2m. ADMISSION: Club E14; Tetriersalis E10 (OAPs receive S2 refreshment voucher); Course S3. CAR PARIC: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 24-95 (25%), K Balley 18-91 (222%), T Porser 14-90 (165%), N Twiston-buries 12-98 (14%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durancody 17-91 (275%), A P McCoy 17-95 (262%), N Williamson 12-98 (175%), A Thornton 11-52 (134%).

BLINGERED FRIST TIME: Tramendisto (201), Michae & Westcoart (330).

2.00 SEIFTON CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) \$3,000 added 2m 27504 DOCTOOR (19) (D) M Pon 8 11 10. A P McCoy
04001 BLADE OF FORTUNE (20) (D) V Gesenway 10 11 6 3 DES-RF TREMESNOISTO (F32) (D) D McCain B ft 8... C. Lisuedhy B
4 GODGE MRYNAM PRINCESS (22) B Precce 8 ft 5... Lisuedhy B
5 DSP-GF GREEN KING (58) D Burchel 6 ft 2... D J Burchelf B
8 3-P2DF FREENDLY HOUSE (20) M Pipe 9 ft 0... L. Liberty
7 FPPM ANLACE (5) D) S Melor 9 ft 9... C. Wiebb (3)
8 00535- LASIST LISHT LADY (F4) M Waring 6 ft 9... R Bellamy
8 declared —
9 ETTING: 4-7 Doctoos, 6-1 Anlaca, 7-1 Blade Of Fortune, 8-1 Friendly House,
14-1 Tremesoffisto, 25-1 Green King, 33-7 others

- 11 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Admins's Guest, 5-2 North End Lady, 5-1 Payeso, 8-1 Hev-er Golf Bagle, 12-1 Hotspur Street, 16-1 Chipelata, Bandes, 25-1 others

2.40 WOODEND NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 110yds

-809P A VERSE TO ORDER (12) Miss P White 7 if 2 K Hibbert (7) 11:23 BOUD STATEMENT (88) F TO FISHE 7 if 2 K Hibbert (7) 11:23 BOUD STATEMENT (88) F TO FISHE 7 if 2 N Williamson 40PS DESERT CALM (88) D McCain 9 if 2 C Lieuwilly, RFR-428 JEMARO (22) W Jerie 7 if 2 D Parker FF3483 JEMARO (22) W Jerie 7 if 2 Gary Lyons (80DP NACARRA SOURD (22) B Preco 7 if 2 Moglord (7) 12P98-SIDE BAR (F45) K Comercial 8 if 2 Moglord (7) 12P98-SIDE BAR (F45) K Comercial 8 if 2 Moglord (7) V Sintey 8538-THE CAMPDOMAN (909) O O'Net 7 if 2 V Sintey 7 if 2 MAD FOR ADVENTURE (125) (C) Miss H Knight 7 if 1 m B Parton -9 declared -BETTING: 11-8 Bold Statement, 11-4 Mald For Adventure, 11-2 Decart Cairs, 13-2 Hip Hop, 12-1 Jemano, 20-1 Side Bar, 25-1 others

3.00 BUNDY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) \$3,500 added 4YO 2m

Momentous McCoy

of correctly predicting that he

would win the final three races

of the meeting. Doctoor, who

was already going to start at

short odds is likely to be almost

unbackable now that he has

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Pettaugh

(Towcester 3.10)

NB: Mammy's Choice

(Towcester 3.40)

than two months of the season

to run. "I had my first day off

this season on Monday and I

have been very lucky to steer

clear of all injuries and sus-

3.50 Pennymoor Prince

4.50 GRAND APPLAUSE (nap)

4.20 Beau Rehills

McCoy also had revealing

been tipped by McCoy.

puts Doctoor on call

another record - was the feat pensions since the season start-

ed," he said.

"It's brilliant to equal some-

a fantastic jockey. I would not

have been able to do it without

good horses as well as keeping

me off the bad ones and I have

right people since Toby Balding brought me over from Ireland."

pv deflect the credit towards his

protégé. "Tony is the essiest man

110 per cent switched on to the

job and gives every horse a ride

whether it's the Cheltenham

Roberts, however, was hap-

"Dave is brilliant at picking

agent, Dave Roberts.

body like Scu's record as he was a horse trained by Martin Pipe,

the help of Martin Pipe and my Scudamore to reach his record.

rides for me, getting me on the ferent school when stealing the

in the world to work for. He's have done that as he knows he

has been around a while end, not for the first time, clidn't show a great deal of enthusiassin in that Huntingdon race. The 11-year-old is safely held and a far bigger danger, if he gets the trip, is Relative Chence. At nine, Relative Chence is heardy in the first flush of youth but did show improved form when stopped up to two and threequarier miles and besting Jet Boys at Bandown in November, Peanceser, a first-lence failer in a stayers' institicap chains at Newton Abbot last week, has run some good races over fences without ever looking to be totally relative. He is Th ingher in the intings on his return to hunding and its difficult to knowing him doing much better. Bally Line stayed on past bestian horses for a senable view of Edmond in the mod at the test meeting. The more rath the better for her.

— 14 declared — Minimum weight: 10st. Title handing weight: Notifiednis St St. BETTING: 100:30 Samon Data, 3-2 Minimum to 10st. Title handing weight: Notifiednis St St. BETTING: 100:30 Samon Data, 3-2 Minimum to 11-2 Bagalino, 13-2 Laap Frog, 7-1 Tostano, 12-1 Bitte Lawa, Ragdine Boy, Tour Leader, 19-1 Baroncelli, Into The Web, 20-1 others 1997: Trust Dead 9: 10:2 D Saler (5) 14-1 (S Kright) 14 ran
FORM GUIDE

S97: Thust Dead 9 to 2 D Same (c) W-1 (s Krugm) in non
PORM GUIDE
The prospect of rain to make this more of a test of stamine should suit BAGALINO. The
way this winning point-to-pointer stayed on for third behind Gratomi at Hereford (2m 31)
is a clear indication he would be bettler suited by a longer tip, as was his one-pead third
over three furlongs less than this at Lelcester lest time. Secon Dufer made a successful
start over fences when he beat Millionoft Regulate and Camera Man (winner of his previous two) at itsuration at the end of December. The staying-on Milcroft Regulate has an
80 pull for times lengths but not only is that rutilized by Robert Widger's claim, Secon
Dufe has since just tailed to give Ballygriffin Lad 20th at Huntingdon, where Baroncelli
was a distant third. Secon Dufes would have won with better jumping and he is again the
one to beat. Less Prog got his second win and was staying on wall when third behind
Desart Baree on acit ground at Doncaster 18 days ago - his first on anche May and his
first over lences, He'il come on for it, especially over this more suitable trip, and has to
come into the reclaming.

50-1 Rocqueine 1997: Thumbs Up 11 1: 4 R Hobson (7) 9-4 (G McCourt) 4 non

HEAVITREE BREWERY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE 3.20 HEAVITREE BREWERY NOVICE FAMILIANT OF THE STATE OF T

been lucky to fall in with all the of Captain Tim Forster.

- 8 declared -BETTING: 10-11 Pedia Rist, 9-2 Slipstream Size, 5-1 Cybertecknology, 8-1 Flowing Fortuna, 10-1 Station Sovereign, 20-1 others

DE3,500 added 4YO 2m

O SKEDON SOMEHEIGH 29 (D) R Hallwined 11 5... Bury Lyons
2 PETITE RISK (11) (BP) M Pipe 10 0... A P MicCoy
CYSERTECHNOLOGY (F189) Mes J Cad 10 2 ... R Danescoy
FLOWING FORTUNE (F181) T Forster 10 2 ... N Williamson
OS GOLDEN SADDLE (F48) D White 10 2 ... N Security
THE ROUNDSELS (F772) M Minimator, 10 2 ... D Gallagfair
LOCHLASS (F3S) R J Price 10 7 ... B Fersion
SLPSTREAM STAR (F42) N InstanDesics 10 7 ... C Lievellyn
- R dacharde ...

2.30 ASTON MUNSLOW NOVICE CHASE
(CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f
1 -6039° A VERSE TO CROPER (13) Miss P White 7 11 2... K Hibbert (7)
2 11-23 BOLD STATEMENT (28) T Forsite 6 11 2 ... N Williamson
4 (PST 12 L RP HOP (6) M PHS 3 11 2 ... C Literallyn
4 (PST 12 L RP HOP (6) M PHS 3 11 2 ... C Literallyn
5 PF5453 LEMARO (22) W Jerks 7 11 2 ... J Bound (7) Jerks 7 12 ... J Bound (7) Jerks 7 13 ... J Bound (7) Jerks 7 14 ... J Bound (7) Jerks 7 15 Jerks 4.00 BUNDY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) -5(P)2 HAND WOVEN (20) (CD) N Twiston-Davies 8 12 0 .C Linwellyer PS-PP JACOB'S WIFE (14) P Wibber 8 11 11. 322-22 HERBERT BUCHAMAN (220) (BF) P Michols 8 11 7. Mr J Tizzard (5)

-7 decianal -BETTING: 9-4 Hand Woves, 7-2 Herbert Buchenes, Philatelle, 6-1 Tellicherry, 8-1 Mickie Joe, 10-1 Bone Setter, 16-1 Jescob's Wife

4 LIUSPP PRINZAL (S40) Mrs P Found 11 12 4 Mr A Samsonne (5) 5 45078P RUSTIC GENT (P18) S Lovis 10 12 4 Mr A C R Wesser (7) 8 60-41 ALWAYS REMEMBER (10) (D) Mr K Rest (10) (D) Mr K Res

7 41/5- MONA CHAMP (259) (2 EP) Mes Shirin (3 2 Entranta (2) E 7 41/5- MONA CHAMP (259) (2 EP) Mes Shirin (3 2) E Williamon (5) 7 declared - 10 20 Entranta Course, 11-2 Snow Board, 6-1 Lay R Olf, 8-1 Coverdate Lane, 12-1 Mova Clernp

- 13 General -BETTING: 3-1 Cabin Hill, 4-1 Great Gasto, 5-1 Always Ret Nozaines, Marger Mania, 8-1 Mr Bean, King Of Shadows. 5.00 LUDLOW STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 4.30 MAGNUS-ALL CROFT HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 4f

2KSSP KING OF SHADOWS (40) (II) Mas C Cautin 11 27 BETTING: 3-1 Alfa, 7-2 Our Grillie, 5-1 Communche Lest, 6-1 Miry Lander, 8-1 Seint Cecilia, 16-1 Westifeld Mist, 14-1 Gently Fildrien, 25-7 others

8 PFP/PP JBB CANTLE (10) Miss D Smith 8 2 0 _____Mr J Tizzard (5) 8 P/PFP KALI SAMA (5) M Hil 10 2 0 _____Mr P Pyon (7) B 10 51-P01 MERICER MANDA (11) S Pook 6 2 0 _____Mr A Walle (7) 11 2-Q3F* BIR BEAN (15) P Morpan 8 2 0 _____Mr A Walle (7) 12 5-UPP SCOTOM (P25) (0) JR Sultern 2 2 0 ___Mr A Walle (7) 13 -SPPPP TILLYNYNE BELLS (10) C Johnson 9 2 0 ___Mr B Hammer (7) 14 ONE; WINTERS COTTAGE (15) M Lloyd 10 2 0 ___Mr B Hammer (7) 15 PFLP-6 THORREHLL (P39) F Mothers 8 1 9 ____Mr S J Graham (7) Nationwide Football League 15 Stoke v Tranmere X Second Division 17 Brentford v Oldham 4.40 EMPRESS ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTER CHASE (H) £1,500 2m 6f

28 Barnet v Hartiepool . PSF28 CHARTERFORMATION FOR THE BOOK BY CAMER (7) 2833P MEDIANE (13) D) Mes C Gorbri 3 2 0 Life A Cherto-Jones (7) 4P-055 PANT LLIN (18) F Machines 12 2 0 Life A Fischerid (7) B 5-110 POLITICAL SAM (P18) J Porter 9 2 0 Life M FitzGerid (7) B 5-110 POLITICAL SAM (P18) J Porter 9 2 0 Life M FitzGerid (7) B 5-110 POLITICAL SAM (P18) J Porter 9 2 0 Life A Baiding (5) 4P-055 PANT LLIN (18) F Machines Thoughton 10 2 0 Life A Baiding (5) 4P-056 PANT LLIN (18) F Machines Thoughton 10 2 0 Life A Baiding (5) 4P-056 PANT LLIN (18) F Machines (18) PANT LLIN (18) PANT Today's fixtures

Football 7.30 uniess stated INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES
Switzerland v England (7.0)
sat Wankschri spatum, Bernel
Scotland v Osermank (8.0)
(at Bran stadoum, Glasgow)
Caseh Republic v Republic of Ireland
standour Stadoum, Glasgow)
Inorthern Ireland v Storekim (8.0)
sat Windoor Park, Bellass)
Wales v Jamelica (7.0)
sat Windoor Park, Bellass)
(at Cottael-Damily stadium, Sudigari)
Russia v Jamelica (7.0)
(at Ustraid stadium, Moscow)
(at Ustraid stadium, Moscow)

Third Division

Austria v Humphry Lat Ernst Happel stadium, Viennal Balgium v Nerway (7.0) Lat King Bauden stadium, Srussels) Macedonia v Bulgaria ... jet Gradski stadkim, Skop

NATIONWEDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Miller V Presion (7.45) GM VALDCHALL CONFERENCE Gateshood v Statybridge (7.45)

Gateshead v Statylaridge (7.45)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION
Livingston v Ousen of South (7.30)

UNEBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Behop
Aucidend v Spermymore. First Division: Behop
Aucidend v Spermymore. First Division: Behop
Statistically PS Untillia First Division Cup
satisficial second leg: Brackord PA v Bardord
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midlend Division: RC
Varnuds v Handley Utc. Verbech v Moor
Green Southern Division: Dartond v Farefram;
Haverni v Margets

Handry League League Complete Comple Green Souttoen Diversort Carteria v Pateriani, Hearin V Margiali
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Sheppay Litt v Whistable
UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Outsiden: Wick v Pagitam
UNLET SUSSEX LEAGUE First Outsiden: Wick v Pagitam
UNLESCREWING UNKET LEAGUE Prenaler Division: Stamford v Eynesbury.
SCREWING UNKET LEAGUE First Owision: Bernstaple v Tortington; Teunton v Calne
LEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE First Owision: Berdstay v Torting
NORTHERIN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premains Division: Density v Ammorpe Vibition;
Shaffadd v Briggs.
MORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Healington v Kidagrows; Prescus Cables
v Warnington

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: E-on City v Forros Mochanics, Rothes v Brotal Systems Rangors. LEAGUE OF WALES: Coomerton Town v Co-LEAGUE OF WALES: Coomerton Town v Co-make Virys Mon (745).

PONTINS: LEAGUE Premier Division: Mon-chester Und v Liverpaci (770, 48 Bury FC). Not-tingham Forest v Sheibay Wed (27), First Division: Botton v Haddersfeld (770, 42 Legh-Raf FC); Grinsot v Machinsbrough (770, 42 Legh-Raf FC); Grinsot v Machinsbrough (770, 42 Legh-Raf FC); Tarto Division: Bea (25), Stockport v Rochdale (70), 48 Hydra Und FC); York v Banch-pol (70). Third Division: Chessiv v Bury (70). Hall v Chesterleist (70); Stantonough v Dorustate (70), Wigen v Scurstorop (70), Lesgue Cup-quenter-Ranti Wichman v Derby (70). AVON RESURANCE COMERNATION First Di-vision: Liston v Totkerham (20) (at Hachan FC). Sourbampton v Portermouth int Scotiowood FC); Swedden v Crystel Polses (75); Werbledon V Wegford (20) (at Polseyh Larw).

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Fifth round regular: Blackburn v Choicea. Rugby League **Rugby Union**

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: North Midlands v RAF (730) of Moselny). ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE: Non-cide v Strators (730).

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Crystal Palaco v Lon-don Towers (80), Groutor London Leopards v Waitord Robals (730), Monchester Gants v Brin-roghen (80)s (730); Dorby Storm v Themes valley Tigoro (80)

Speedway SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Kingle Lynn v bewich CHALLENGE MATCH: Hull v Sheffeld (730).

Other sports GOLFS Surringdale Fours.
SNOOKER's Benson and Heges Irish Memers.
(Corts Caus, Kill, County Kudana).
SOUMSITE British Open Championship qualifying ILambé Calo, London).

Towcester

HYPERION 2.10 Admirai's Guest 2.40 it's A Gem 3.10 Pettaugh 3.40 Fortunes Course 4:10 Ardrom 4.40 Lochnagrain 5.10 Bold Leap

GOING: Good to Firm.

Right-hand, undulating choult, Run-in of 140yd.

Course is on AS SE of fown, ADMISSION: Club £12 (CAPs £12);
Rithersels £8 (CAPs £3); Course £5, CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Micholson 30-71 (42.3%), K Belley 12-55 (218%), T Forster 10-80 (12.5%), Mrs J Phman 9-42 (214%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: N Williamson 14-69 (203%), M A Fitzger-

ald 12-85 (9%), W Maraton 12-92 (3%), R Johnson 9-62 (12.9%). • FAVOURITIES: 186 wits from 480 races (39.4%). BLINGERED FRST TB6E: Randra (2.0), Konthary (4.0), Jupillar Probe (410), Mazirah (visored, 210), Tannessee King (visored, 313).

2.10 GRAFTON AMATEUR RIDERS SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m

1 236 MONTAMERS WAY 65 0 BP) N landsson 7 19 _ M A Flagmani 2 07-P (TS A GER) (LS) J Giford 9 11 2 _ ____ P Hide 3 1-53 SHAURACH (LS) Mai N Mobiley 7 11 2 _ ____ R Thomston 4 PO40P WILLE WANNABE (F) M Chapman 8 11 2 _ ____ W Worthington — 4 declared — BETTING: 4-7 Wayfurnan Way, 7-2 N's A Gent, 4-1 Shadasch, 25-1 Willia 4.10 BRADDEN NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) \$2,900 added 2m 3.10 LITCHBOROUGH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 5f

BETTING: 2-1 Lochmagrain, 7-2 Arcette, 4-1 Reign Darros, 6-1 Shearid, 8-1 Severn irvegist, 16-1 Charterlochardware, Mediane, 25-1 others 5.10 GRIMSCOTE 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m 5f | CLASS E) E2,900 added 2xt 5f | COLASS E) E4,700 Added 2xt 5f | COLASS E) E4,700 Added 2xt 5f | COLASS E4,700 Added 2xt 5f - 16 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Top Note, 5-1 Noner's BIS, 8-1 Bold Leep, 10-1 Bay Pusiller, American Pla, 12-1 others

INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS TOWCESTER 971 981 972

Racing results CHEPSTOW 2.00: 1, LANNIKARAN (A P McCoyl) 6-5 izer; 2. Supreme Genetin 7-2; 3. New Ris-ing 4-1.16 ran, 34, 2. (Capt T Forsier, Down-ton). Total 22:0; £150, £170, £340. Duel Forscast; £400. Computer Straight Forecast: £475. Total 25:00.

The Computer Straight Forecast: AUTS Trick: 1990.

2.30: 1. FRYS NO FOOL (C Liewellyn)

7-2 It far; 2. Oriented Boy 12-1; 3. Super Ritchart 7-2 It far; 9 mm; 1/4, 18. (J Ott. Whoughton) Tokes Strot: F150, E200, E200, DF: E2090 CSF: 53799. Interst: \$14057. This E330. Non Runner Tout of The Bue.

3.00: 1. DEYMIAR (R Durwood) 7-2; 2. Spring Grass 4-1; 3. Son of Annihen 11-4 7 mm. 2-1 far J Nhaen (Sin); 2, Ind. (D Gendolfo, Wentage), Tokes 94.70; 1190, E290. DF: 2120. CSF: E7782.

3.30: 1. FLAPJACK (AD (C Liewellyn) 7-1; 2. Membershill 2-1 far; 3. Milester Blaics 14-1 9 mm, 2, 18 (N Teifebth-Darkes, Chellentham), Tokes E830; 5180, E10, E100. DF: E870. CSF: £2000. Titost: \$5878. This Son

4.00: 1. POBME SECRET (A P McCoy)
8-13 ter; 2. Survise Special 10-1; 3. Buy
14y Pty 33-1.8 sen; 3. 26. (M Ptol.) Net: £130: 1
9:10, £220, £820. DP: £530. CSF: £270.
4.30: 1. PRECARUSE (M: J M Přichard)
14-1; 2. Holžand House 6-4; 3. Double Săk
4-6 tax, 6 ran, 1%, dat. (Mrs Moole Sheppard, Ledbury). Totac £1510; £430, £150. DP:
£630. CSF: £348.
5.00: 1. RIO'S KING (A Bekarny) 5-1; 2.
North Tyro 6-1; 3. Beckum Wave 15-1; 16
100. 4-1 fay Mile Equal 1%, 1%, Ú/ Tuck Dismerion). Totac £270; £210; £280, £370. DP:
£1510. CSF: £352. Tho: £5750.
Plecapot: £2740. Quedpot: \$1800.
Plecapot: £2370, Pane 5: £2482.
FONTWELL

(4th), 14, 14, (R Hodges), Yote: £5.20; £1.50, £1.20, £1.50, DF: £12.80, CSF: £19.02, Tricast: 2120, 2150, DF: \$12.00, CSF: \$18.02, Tricast: \$17.09.
2.10: 1. GIGI BEACH! (T J Murphy) 7-4;
2. Man of The Martch 8-4 fee; 3. Benfoul-bin 11-4 ran. 114, 24, [P Nichols]. Toler: \$10. DF: \$180, CSF: \$450, MF: Cross The Rubicon.
3.40: 1. THE NEWSMAN (O Burrows) 3-1; 2. Gran Turlemo 9-2; 3. Silent (Capter 7-2 14 ran. 5-2 fee Mart Fee; [Mrl. 214, 4, (Mass S Edwards). Toler: \$480; \$150, \$130, \$170. Dual Process: \$100. CSF: \$1509 this: \$150, Non Rurmars: Cherry Lee & Super

250: 1. LOTTERY TICKET (S Wyrne) 5-2: 2. Dark Cok 4-1; 3. Farney Glen 7-4 inv. 4 ram. 2, 7. (T George, Stroue). Tota: 5240 DF: 58-70. CSF: 5/457 3.20: 1. BLOWING AWAY (R Thomson) 11-4 lar; 2. Michigen Blue 14-1; 3. Select Star 8-1 15 ram. 4, 11/4. (M Tompidna, New-

4.50: 1. SUN ALERT (R Thornton) evens fav; 2. Barton Chie 12-1; 3. If Only 7-2. 11 ran. 11/. dst. (M Polytase, Newmarkes) Tobe: 220: 5120. 5250. 5140. DF: \$16.50. CSF: \$16.90. This: \$20.20. Jackpot, £75130

Swiss timing preoccupies Hoddle

By Glenn Moore Football Correspondent ın Berne

ENGLAND are in Swit-

zerland today as part of their preparations for a World Cup campaign which should open in 80F conditions in Marseilles in June. Yesterday they woke up to a blan-

ket of snew. It may have turned Berne's medieval city cen-re into a living picture postcard but it was not what Glenn Hoddle wished to see when he

pulled back the curtains. Having lost nine players from his squad - and had another seven unavailable when it was picked - this was all the England coach needed. "It was in th . 60s when we sent someone out here a fortnight ago," he said, "but you can't control the weather."

The game is not thought to be under threas (snow is hardly unique here) but the pitch is likely to be wet if not frozen, not good news for Premiership managers concerned about further injuries or a national coach trying to assess players.

Yet while the match will present a rather different challenge to Tunisia in 12 weeks' time it should be a good test of temperament and technique. The Swiss, in their first match under new management, are expected to provide lively opposition. Despite the injury problems England can still field a useful side and Hoddle is likely to try one or two experiments.

One of these is expected to be the forward pairing of Michael Owen and Alan Shearer. Another is a first start for the 19-year-old West Ham defender Rio Ferdinand. A third possibility is the use of a back four since the Swiss are expected to adopt an Ajax-style 3-4-3 formation.

Hoddle's defensive options are limited by having only one regular fullback, Andy Hinchcliffe, in the squad and he must pass a fitness test on his sore Achilles. Either Steve McManaman or Paul Merson will play in the McManaman aiso a possible wingback.

"Ideally you experiment within a structure but this might be a good game to throw people in and see how only about 12 to 13 certainties. they handle it," Hoddle said. "There



The England coach, Glenn Hoddle (right), monitors his two teenage charges, Rio Ferdinand (left) and Michael Owen, in a Berne blizzard

"hole" behind the strikers, with are not many opportunities left for mind but it is not cast in stone. So in many of the local papers. Hoddle, What I need to find out is will they

the squad has a chance: there are soon but that depends on injuries."

Owen, naturally, is the centre of "I have a 22 at the back of my attention, with his picture appearing years, I know that about him and Rio. be a very, very good as a substitute."

players to take their chance so my many players could be injured and understandably, said he was "still on be ready in two or three months. ssage for those playing tomorrow I don't want to disappoint myself. I trial" for a World Cup place, and was Michael has a lot to learn, he needs is to take this one. Every player in would like to play my first-choice XI not yet among the dozen or so cer- time to develop. He has played a lot tainties for France.

of football and I need to see how sharp "He will be ready in two or three he is at the end of the season. He could

Shearer, as ever, was not prepared to express a preference as to his striking partner but he said of a link-up with Owen: "I don't think we would let anybody down. He's an interesting player who's got pace, takes everything in his stride and certainly did not look out of place for England. He is ahead of me at that age. more prolific a scorer and a hell of a prospect. You'd never think he was

Shearer, who would not talk about the Newcastle situation, except to dismiss speculation that they might be relegated, added: "Some partnerships click, some have to be worked at Me and Les Ferdinand had to do a lot of work but we ended up scoring 50 goals between us.

The Swiss failed to qualify for the World Cup and, having been unable to attract either Tottenham's Christian Gross or Dortmund's Ottmar Hitzfeld, have appointed Gilbert Gress, of Neuchatel Xamax, as their new coach.

This is his first match in charge and he is expected to rely on a nucleus of experience, notably the talented playmaker Ciriaco Sforza who has inspired Kaiserslauten to the top of the Bundesliga, and Stephane Chapuisat, whose goal put Dortmund into the European Cup semi-finals

Two Premiership defenders. Stéphane Henchoz and Ramon Vega, are expected to feature while Patrick Muller, an attacking midfielder and a transfer target for Milan, is being lined up for a debut. Marco Grassi, who hit the bar during the 1-1 draw with England in Euro '96, will lead the attack if the prolific Kubilay Türkyilmaz fails a late fitness test.

Having lost their last match at home to Chile England would like to avoid defeat but Hoddle accurately regards the performance as more important than the result. "The Chile match may prove to be a blessing in disguise as it has dampened down some of the euphoria. I want to be positive but realistic. Some people had begun to think we only had to pull our shirts on to lift the World Cup. It is the performance which is most important but if we perform we will win. If we don't, Switzerland are strong enough to spring a surprise."

SWITZERLAND (probable): Cornelabous
Neuchkini Xammot: Vega (Ritterham Hotspur)

tow for Arse

Lose yourself for the day. Then return to your beloved children. Thingy and Wotsername. Sharan W

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office to Elliott's song for France How to

Football

By Phil Shaw

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■ Happy

Dirthday

Channels

Will thereb

3nother one

CONTEN

MATT ELLIOTT will simultaneously start his first game for and in Scotland tonight, more confident of taming Denmark's fabled Laudrup brothers than of mastering the words to his adopted country's pre-match anthem.

The London-born centreback, who qualifies for Craig Brown's side by virtue of a deceased grannie from Partick, has not played so much as a pre-season friendly north of the wall. But after coming on late in Scotland's last match, November's 2-1 defeat in France, Elliott will partner Cohn Hendry at Ibrox.

If appearances count for anything, the twin peaks of Leicester and Blackburn will present a daunting barrier. Elliott favours the close-cropped look that once went with a crombie coat and bovver boots. Hendry, who assumes the captaincy in the absence of Gary McAllister, has the flapping, flaxen mane of a latter-day Viking.

The Scotland manager has been impressed by the speed with which the 29-year-old Elliott has adapted to the rigours of the Premiership. "Matt's far better with his feet than you'd imagine for such a huge guy, Brown said. "Denmark tend not to play the ball in the air, but deliver it into the box on the deck. But I've no : 🗄 🛗 qualms about him. He's brilliant It is at both ends of the pitch, especially at set-pieces."

The fact that Hendry and Elliott have never played together leaves Brown open to criticism. Some will argue that, with 11 weeks to go before Scotland open the World Cup finals against Brazil, he is leaving it late to experiment.

There are, however, a further three warm-up fixtures in which ing for Lyngby at Ibrox. the part of the control of the contr the training camp in the United States in May. Moreover, Elliott has the advantage of his b operating a three-man de-

..... nik nerice similar to the Scots' system. A:A:n1 Elliott, who admitted feeling he has "a lot to prove to a lot of people", is going in at the

deep end. Barely 15 months after leaving Oxford, he will be facing not only Brian Laudrup, on the stage he knows intimately from his time with Rangers, but

also big brother Michael. Yet he seemed more perturbed by the prospect of being seen to struggle with the lyric of "Flower of Scotland", rather as John Redwood was with the Welsh authern, and promised to "brush up on it".

Hendry, meanwhile, would appear to have the opportunity to establish himself as captain for France 98, although Brown said it did not necessarily follow that he would retain the armband. John Collins, one of six players forced to drop out of the squad, also has a plausible claim.

The withdrawal of Collins. Craig Burley and Paul Lambert gives Brown no option other than to revamp his midfield. Stuart McCall is set to resume in the anchor role, with Billy McKinlay and Scot Gemmill encouraged to push on more.

In attack, Darren Jackson is Jürgen a definite starter, just six months after brain surgery. Goalkeeping rivals Jim Leighton and Andy Goram will each play a half.

Denmark, currently third in Fifa's world rankings, are missing only the incapacitated Peter Schmeichel and have lost only once since Bo Johansson became coach after Euro 96. Brown, having watched their rout of Croatia on video, described Michael Landrup's goal as among the best he had ever seen.

Johansson said he expected great things of the younger Laudrup now that the "stress" of his proposed transfer to Chelsea had been lifted. He also sensed a "real find" in Celtic's Morten Wieghorst, who owes his career in Scotland to having

eruser.

DENMARIK (possible 3-4-1-2): Krogh
(Brondby); Lucrean (Derby); Risper (Cellc),
Heintze (Bayer Leveriusen); Helveg (kd-nese), Nelsen (fottenham), Schjoenberg (Kaleorsteutem), Wieghorst (Cellc); M Lau-drup (Ajax); B Laudrup (Rangers), Moeller (PSV Eintoven).



gly sisters can spoil Jamaica's ball

By Guy Hodgson

Perhaps Rene Simoes could have chosen a more tactful comparison when he spoke of Jamaica's going to the World Cup finals this summer as a 'Cinderella Dream". As anyone connected with Wales might mutter: "Even the Ugly Sisters got to the ball.

Never mind England's 30 years of hurt, Wales have been smarting since 1958. World Cups, European Championships they come and go withimpressed Dundee when play- out the principality getting to go to the party on oper. Forty years

> So as Jamaica, under the guidance of the Brazilian and be positive. Wales have Simoes, use tonight's friendly at messed around too much over Cardiff City's Ninian Park to the years. Now is the Time to prepare for France 98, Wales are start getting it right." looking for yet another dawn. The European Championship message and to emphasise the maicans beat Queen's Park the game. "Jamaicans love a Montego Bay.

A fresh start, is also Gould's

campaign is on their personal fact that it will be an unfamilhorizon and, as usual they have iar side that will take the field, got the nasty end of a bad draw, mainly because injuries have dea group that includes Italy Denprived him of Ryan Giggs, Mark Hughes, Dean Saunders and It pays to be hopeful to Nathan Blake. But the managmanage the Welsh and no one er's brio suggests that will procould fault Bobby Gould on that vide an opportunity for score. He spent last night in someone else and attention Cumbernauld, watching his B will fall on Norwich City's 18team play Scotland - although year-old striker Craig Bellamy,

some of his attention was like- who will become the third ly to have dwelt on his son, youngest Welsh full interna-Jonathan, in the opposition tional after Giggs and John goal - but he left a sea of op-Charles if he plays. "What's pleasing is that he "This side has some fine has been produced through young players in it," John Hart- ... our own youth system," Gould 2th cap asside Hie's been in the under-

ture, and, surprisingly with the cent matches. reputation he's acquired, he's training with us."

Rangers at Loftus Road on good time," a spokesman for the their enthusiasm and technique, and that was just their crowd. "I wish I could take their support with me everywhere." he said. "They were fantastic and anybody going to Ninian Park is in for some night. The noise their fans made was amazing. It's going to be a cracking at-

There will be congestion in come across as very shy in the city, too, as many of Cardiff's night-clubs have been Gould watched the Ja- booked for reggae parties after originated from Tiger instead of

Sunday and was impressed with Jamaican Trade Commission said. "It should be an all-night party the city will never forget. Many of our fans have never seen a football match before but they'll be there to welcome the players, and celebrate the first time we have qualified for the finals of the World Cup."

The Jamaicans may not be familiar to their own support-Welsh supporters will be ers but many of them will ring outnumbered at least two to one a bell with the Welsh contingent as the Football Association of scattered among the steel Wales estimates as many as bands. Wimbledon's Robbie 10,000 Jamaican fans from all Earle, who headed the winner over Britain will be in the sell- at QPR, is likely to start while out 14,600 crowd, which will be other English based players intonight, said and I can see a "16s, under-18s and under-21s. in contrast to the near empty clude Marcus Gayle (Wimblegood future. We have to go out He's going to be one for the fu- Cardiff Arms Park of Wales' re- don), Frank Sinclair (Chelsea), Daryll Powell and Deon Burton (Derby), and Paul Hull and

Fitroy Simpson Portsmouth). If only their families had

Young Dane a class apart

By Simon Buckland

Scotland Under-21 Denmark Under-21

SCOTLAND'S young guns found themselves outshone by the Ajax-bound Jesper Gronkjaer, who scored and made another for Peter Madsen in an opening spell in which the Danes capitalised on uncertain defending at Stirling yesterday.

The 20-year-old forward, who has signed a pre-contract deal to leave Aalborg for the Dutch club this summer, was a class apart at Forthbank.

For the home couch, Tommy Craig, the defeat hardly bodes well for the European Championship qualifiers at under-21 level later this year. However, he will have been encouraged by an improved second-half display which culminated in the substitute Barry Ferguson's Soth-minute free-kick to halve the deficit.

After nine minutes, Gronkjaer's low cross shot was pushed away by the goalkeeper Derek Scrimgour, Clement Cliford was first to the rebound but Gary Naysmith blocked his cffort. But after 18 minutes Denmark translated their pressure into a goal for Gronkjaer, who cleverly turned Mikkel Jensen's cross past Scrimgour.

Five minutes later, Gronkjaer got the better of Louis Carey on the left to fire an angled drive that Scrimgour could only push as far as Madsen, who netted with case.

The Danes could have moved further ahead before the break when Scrimgour fumbled a Lars Jacobsen cross into the path of Madsen but this time he volleyed wide of an open goal from the edge of the area.

After the break Denmark continued to press, Jensen firing a free-kick narrowly wide after 48 minutes.

Gavin Strachan, watched by aged a goal on his debut after 75 minutes when his them header from Stuart Campbell's precise cross was clawed away. well by Jimmy Nielsen.

That looked as though itwould be Scotland's first and last : effort at goal but the Rangers midfielder Ferguson stroked in a 20-yard free-kick for a happion conclusion to a disappointing afternoon.

Hooenson, Eacl, Denmark Under-21: Nelsen; Jacobsen, Lauren, Beelum, Jepsen, Madeen, Jensen, Fig (Lektonsn. 77), Gronklaer, Roel-Lersen, Critori (Smith, 70), Subellutes not used; Crogh, Thorup, Hyldgolard.
Referee: Brag Bergmann (Iceland).

• The West Ham striker Lee Boylan was knocked unconscious following a collision with the Czech Republic Under-21 goalkeeper Jindrich Skacel 20 minutes into his Republic of Ireland Under-21 debut in Drnovice. Boylan was treated for more than two minutes on the pitch before he could be moved. X-rays later revealed he had not fractured a cheek bone as feared, but bruising to the side of his face. The Irish lost the match 3-0.

Seaman blow for Arsenal

By Catherine Riley

ARSENAL'S Double hopes have been hit by the news that David Seaman and Ian Wright are set to miss another three games, despite hopes of their After an impressive perfor-

against Portsmouth at the weekend, Seaman has had a setback on the finger injury that has kept help out their struggling neighhim out since January, and has been unable to train. Wright is still struggling with

a groin-problem and it looks likely the pair will miss Saturday's Premiership match with Sheffield Wednesday and next Tuesday's visit to Bolton, as well as the FA Cup semi-final against Wolves on 5 April.

Switzerland tonight, Tony Adams and Ray Parlour should be fit to face Wednesday.

chester United, have beaten Spurs to the signature of York teenager Jonathan Greening, afmance for the Arsenal reserves ter he impressed in trials in November. And in a remarkably charitable gesture, United are to bours, Manchester City, by let-Curtis, who played for England Under-21s last night, on loan for the rest of the season.

However, despite pulling Norwegian has fallen out of out of the England squad to face favour with the Rovers manag-Arsenal's title rivals, Man-

two seasons ago. Levton Orient have been ting them have defender John son matches, even though they were suspended. Orient, who blamed admin-

Lars Bohinen, the Blackburn Smith, the Derby manager,

er, Roy Hodgson, and has made just six Premiership starts this season. Blackburn paid Nottingham Forest £700,000 for him

fined by the Football Association for fielding three ineligible players in league matches. The Third Division side fielded Mark Warren, Simon Clark and Stuart Hicks in a number of mid-sea-

istrative errors for the offence, were fined £20,000 - £12,500 susmidfielder, is to meet Jim pended until 1999-and were reported to the Football League, about a move to Pride Park in who could also deduct 'points a deal worth around £1.2m. The when they consider the case.

McMenemy's

target area

mark and Switzerland.

timism behind him.

THE new Northern Ireland manager, Lawrie McMenemy, has quickly identified his side's biggest problem - scoring goals.

The higher up you go, the harder it is to score goals," McMenemy said before tonight's game with Slovakia in Belfast. "You can't expect lads performing in the First and Second Divisions to go and play international football and suddenly start hitting the back of the net."

McMenemy will probably opt for Queen's Park Rangers' Iain Dowie and West Bromwich's James Quinn up front, although St Johnstone's George O'Boyle could come on at some stage. NORTHERN IRELAND (possible): Fettis: Pettierson/Whitley, A Hughes, Hil, Morrow, M Hughes, Lomes, Lennon, Gillespie, Dowle, Outrn.

stadium in the county. Robin Marter will stay on as chairmen of Sussex for an-

Plum spot for Duff DAMIEN DUFF makes his ea- month he was very disappointgerly awaited international de- ed with his performance and he but tonight in one of European

football's remotest spots when the Czech Republic play bost to the Republic of Ireland in Olomouc. And Mick McCarthy, the Republic of Ireland manager, could not be more pleased.

It was only a matter of time before Duff, the 19-year-old Blackburn Rovers winger, wore the senior green shirt. The Dubliner was the outstanding figure in the youth team's thirdplace finish in the World Under-18 championship last summer.

"We can all tell Damien's got the lot," McCarthy said. "He's got great first touch, pace, control and finishing ability. But when he made his first appearance for the Irish B side last

thought it was a lot to do with all the expectations. Let's just give him some space and see how he plays." McCarthy has picked one of

the Republic's youngest teams. The Leeds defender Alan Maybury, also 19, and Charlton midfielder Mark Kinsella, 25, also make their senior debuts. Everton's Gareth Farrelly gets only his fourth cap at 22. "I have never been afraid to give youngsters a chance and this new crop have already impressed me a great deal in training," Mc-Carthy said.

REPUBLIC OF BRELAND: Given (New caste), Maybury (Leeds), Kenne (Beckturn), Breen (Coventry), Cunningham (Wimble-don, capt), Kinnetia (Charlion), Carsley (Der-by), Farrelly (Everton), G. Kelly (Leeds), Connolity (Feyencord), Duff (Blackburn).

THE German manager, Berti Vogts, refused to reveal yesterday whether Jürgen Klinsmann

Klinsmann to

tackle Brazil

would start today's friendly against Brazil in Stuttgart. Vogts, who has three strikers at his disposal in Klinsmann,

Oliver Bierhoff and Ulf Kirsten, declined to name the two who would start, but said: "All three will come on." Germany have played Brazil, the World Cup holders, 15 times, winning three matches. drawing four and losing eight.

The two teams have never met at the World Cup. GERMANY (probable): A Koepke, O Thon, J Kohler, T Heimer/C Woerns, J Heimich, D Hemann, J Nowothy, C Zlege, A Moeller, J Klinsmann/U Kirsten/O Blerhoff.

BRAZIL (probable): Tattaret, Junior Baiano, Aldair, Catu, Roberto Cartos, Casar Sampaio, Dunga, Denilson, Ral, Ronaldo, Romano.

Sporting Digest

American football The NFL have returned professional American football to Cleveland, which lost its original club to Baltimore three years ago. The name of the expansion club will be called the Browns, although the league have yet to decide on ownership of the team.

Basketball NBA: Detroit 94 Philac Boston 88; Dellan 91M 107 Denver 86; Sentile 1 Boxing

adelphia 79; Chicago 117 Alimeacte 87; LA Lakens Americano 83; Van-INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP (Connecticut): Yory Boy Campes (Mex., hold-er) bt.A Stephene (US) Im 3rd.

Sussex are to move from the County Ground in Hove, their home since 1872. The county have joined forces with Brighton & Hove Abion Football Club in the quest for a multi-purpose sports

stay on as chairmen of Sussex for an-other year on a shared power basis with the retired Marks and Spancer d-rector Don Trangmar. The former New Zealand captain, Lee Germon, retired yesterday after guid-ing Cantierbury to the Shell Trophy against Northern Districts. Football

The West Harm United goalkeeper Bernard Lama has been called into the French squad for a friendly against Russia in Moscow tonight. Bolton have signed the 25-year-old Swiss striker Geetano Glafanza from Vantes until the end of the sea Notts County have signed the Oldham midfielder Andrew Hughes for midfielder £150,000.

2. Swindows striker Steve Finney has been granted a transfer, while the goaleeper Fraser Digby has rejected a new three-year contract offer by the club. Nottingham Forest will sign the Weish international central detender Christ-ian Edwards for £175,000 from

Swansee today.
Norway have called up the Southampnonely have cased up the solution to ton centre-back Claus Lundekvam for the friendly against Belglum today to replace the injured Manchester Unit-ed defender Ronnie Johnsen. The Manchester City winger Neil Heaney has joined Charlton on loan until the and of the season.

until the end of the season.

The Kent cricketer Will House is to play for Cambridge in the Varsity match against Oxford at Ruham on Saturday, becoming the first player for several years to win a double Blue.

UNDER-21 RYTERNATIONAL PRIENDULES: Creck Republic (Sionto 14 Vazzial 83, Zalopal 68) 3 Republic of Instant 0 (at Sportow) ened statism. Demonsky; Scotland (Paganon 83) 1 Demonsky; Scotland (Paganon 84) 1 Demonsky; Scotland (Paganon 84) 1 Demonsky; Scotland (Paganon 84) 1 Demonsky; Scotland (Paganon 85) 1

West Counties League First Division: Maine Road 3 Kittgrove 1. Foreirs League Premier Division: Patro 2 Strict 2. Second Division: Bernsley 0. Fotbortem 0. Bradford City 0 Sherfield Life 2. Burnisy 3 Shrewbury 1. Third Division: Nemcanity 0. Sherfield 10. Aron Insurance Combination First Division: Brighton 0 Hellwell 2. Oxford Leaf 0 powich 1. Friendly: Kingstonien 1 Brumbard 0. \$USPENSSONS: Sandings off; FA Carling Premierable: Distroscopy America Vision and Control of Control o switch 1. Friender; Knigsturnen 1. Bremmart Q.
SURPHSROMS: Sandings off: FA Carling Premiership: D Berglamp (Ansens) three metaer from 37 March. Pive causions: 1 Street (Deby
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M Midmiosh (Stockport) one match from 28 March; Picker)
M Midmiosh (Stockport) one match from 28 March; Picker) one match from 28 March; Picker (Stote Cry) one match from 17 April v Sorbolas (Styling one March) one match from 28 March;
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Eight cautions: M Brown (Marchester Chy) bromatche from 28 March.

(Princingum Full (+2) Salt; U Emerson (Saltshury & S. Willis) & N. Belany (Branchistere) (+2) bit 1 Frome & T. Marriwick (Conferriptin) (+3) thinks, M. Haller & R. Marriwick (Conferriptin) (+3) thinks, M. Haller & R. Marriwick (Conferriptin) (+3) thinks & R. Marriwick (Rockmann & Rockmann & Rockm

Pescock & Sikey (Grims Dyke) (Scr) bt A Cockayine & E Graves (Nertworth) (+2) 82; P Alabassis (Times Reves) & Dourton (1) (Sce) P Alabassis (Times Reves) & Sibpunton (1) (Sce) P Alabassis (Times Reves) & Sibpunton (1) (Sce) P Alabassis (Times Reves) & Dourton (Sce) P Alabassis (European Rou) (+2) 1 hote; P Simpon (W Bernett & Dicatk & (Chaping Norton) (+2) 1 k Macchanid & Court (Goodmood) (3) 1 note, W Bernett (Linatil & District (Stokes) Poges) (+2) 1 P Early & Devis (Sce) (+2) 1 P Early & Devis (Sastron Watden) (+2) 1 k P Morley (Revening) & B Red (The Wester) (+2) 1 k P Morley (Revening) & B Red (The Wester) (+3) 82; M King & J Put (Surningdele) (+1) the Tatassis (Sheemess) & Stokes (South Heris) (+3) 82; P Lane (Stock Hote) & D Rezistmons (Herpwelen Common) (+3) 1 k R Bolton & C Donald (Burnham Beechec) (+2) 483; R McFarlane (European Tour) & R Warner (Fermison Paris) (+2) 1 hole; R Fernisch (Borgo F House) (*4) 1 hole; R Fernisch (Borgo F F House) (Sastron) (1) k P Taping & F House) (*4) (*4) k P Taping & F House) (*4) k P Taping & F House) (*5) k R Edwards (Portsmouth) (+2) b J Brant (The Sastron) & K Barel (Estimate) (*1) k J F Taping (P manus) e u consente (Kronise Paris I + 1) bt R Hunter & C. Lastinot (Habiten) (+ 1) tid J. Robe-son (The Vale) & R. Winchester (European Kruf) 362. J. Hamilton & M. Payno (Brickendon Grango) (+ 1) bt A Parridge & N. Mouti (Moor Hell) (1) 281: S. Godiney & K. Godiney (S. En-cadoe) paris br A Marehall (Deruham) & I. Ferris (Lamberhurs) (+2) 281: J. Soulsby (Costori) Paris & C. Durly (Maderhead) (4) bt W. Bladon (Units) & N. Mortin (The Worwskisher) (-1) 584

Ice hockey NEHL: Chicago 5 Detroit 5, Corolina 5 Florida 3 Rallying

RALLY OF POTUCAL Leading positions in the 20 stages 1 C McFee (35) Subaru Impress the Thim 352-sec; 2 F Los (Bell) Toyota Corollia +1758-c, 3 C Sant; 150/ Toyota Corollia +278; 4 P Burss (35) Mitsuschi Carsona +350; 5 Atonien (Fri) Ford Escort +2296; 8 P L-att (c) Subaru Impress +2.368

Snooker Tennis

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of years for which 11 Bristol City fans have been banned by Bristol Crown Court from every football ground in the world. They were arrested following a brawl with Bristol Rovers fans on the pitch at Ashton Gate after Rovers had scored a late equaliser in December 1996. Rovers players were also attacked as they left the field.

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AROUND THE RESORTS ANDORRA Grau Roig... ALISTRIA Sucerb (rest) powder high up BULGARIA 7.3 Grande Motte in good shape Value of Lei and La Mottra good 100% - 11.3

Snow Reports supplied by Ski Hotline

Golf
SUNNINGDALE FOURSCHES First round (combined hinduses or besolute): Old Countie.

R Wath & D Hert (The Lembourne) (1-2) of M Hughtecton & M Challence (Survingdale) (+1) at Sixt, S Gallegier (Teresteen Perif, & R Februar (Newcasate-under-Lyma) (f) bt.) Langmond & J Langmond (hindusen): 1 Str. (1-1) in Sixt, S (1-1) in Sixt, S (1-1) in Sixt, Mackendale (Pillichorough) & I Mackendale (S Sentit) (2-1) in Sixt (Min (Challendale & S Sentit) (2-1) in Sixt (Min (Challendale & S Sentit) (2-1) in Sixt (Min (Challendale & S Sentit) (2-1) in Sixt (Min (Challendale & Challendale (Min (Min (Challendale & Challendale (Min (Challendale & Challendale (Min (Challendale & Challendale (Min (Challendale & Challendale (Min (Challendale & Challendale (Min (Challenda Golf

Alldins (Rovermond) & K. sylor (Sandford Springs) § 24.1. New Charses M. Jarnes (Incit) 5 T Paierson (Leatherhead) (+1) bit R Cadwell (Surningotel) & Alldir (Merstand) (+1) bit R Cadwell (Surningotel) & Alldir (Merstand) (+1) bit J Donety & N Hentingen (Morthing) (Sch. 25.1. D Macdinnon (Fahrasen) & Reacy (Bury) por) bit at Pilo (Molsum) & A Lesson (Surningotel) (Sor) 482, M Novemen (Footridge) & G Edwards (Medicatesm) (+1) bit P Eachestel (Medicatesm) (+2) bit P Hollington (Galdgord) & J Holdison (Medicatesm) (+2) bit P Hollington (Galdgord) & J Holdison (Medicatesm) (+3) bit J Backer (Medicatesm) (+4) bit D Elli & A Wilmon (Sunningotel) (+1) bit C Langford (Bosecotel & C Helli (Occherologiy) (47 755, R Hessa & M Autrey-Pelatrer (Burningotel) (+1) bit C Eachestel (+1) bit C E

Squash

TH

Merson sells Boro to Gascoigne

Football

By Alan Nixon

PAUL GASCOIGNE returned to English football yesterday in a £3m, three-and-a-half year deal with Middlesbrough that owed much to the persuasive powers of Paul Merson.

The transfer has yet to pass could prove tricky as Gascoigne has a calf strain, a troublesome hamstring and a possible hernia

problem. Should all go well, he a 10th successive Scottish Pre- Gascoigne's native North-east Bryan Robson beat off compecould make his Boro debut in Sunday's Coca-Cola Cup final against Chelsea at Wembley.

The 30-year-old Gascoigne was given the hard sell by Merson, who called the former Newcastle and Tottenham midfielder to tell him how his move to the Teesside club from Ar-England team.

Gascoigne, who will miss

on the transfer, feeling he was being pushed out by chairman David Murray.

Gascoigne joined Rangers from Lazio in June 1995, but this season has seen him start only 16 games and his dwindling fluence, through injury and senal had rejuvenated his game suspension, may have has perthe hurdle of a medical, which and lifted him back into the suaded Murray to let him go with two years still remaining on

mier title, had previously stalled and has provided Boro with tition from Premiership strugmuch needed quality as they push for promotion to the Premiership. He will be ideal company for Gascoigne as he struggles to make England's fans will be really excited about World Cup squad. His battle

with drink, drugs and gambling has won Merson the respect of his fellow professionals and Gascoigne, who has bad his share of personal problems,

Merson's intervention helped

glers Crystal Palace. "Pm delighted Gazza is joining us," Robson, the Boro manager, said. "He's a great player and our

watching him play. "Paul should give us that little extra in midfield, which should help us achieve the ambitions we are setting ourselves."

Gascoigne will join Boro in training today and have his medical "in the next few days".

Whether he plays against Chelsea remains to be seen. "Twe got to assess Gazza's fitness and see what he's done with Rangers," Robson said.

Gascoigne's advisor, Mel Stein, revealed that leaving Rangers was one of the toughest decisions his client has had to make in his career.

"He is very, very sad to be leaving Rangers. It's an enormons wrench," Stein said. "Paul said to me Tve left clubs before, but I've never been so sad about

leaving a club.' I don't think there will be a problem with his medical. He's probably a bit rusty, probably not quite match fit, although he is available for the Coca-Cola Cup final."

"His England ambitions remain as strong as ever. I'm not saying he wouldn't have been picked for the World Cup if he had stayed at Rangers, but clearly there is going to be a hell of a lot of competitive football in the weeks ahead for him." More good news for Boro

vesterday came from their Ital. 👍 ian defender Gianluca Festa Described by Robson as "a model professional". Festa has signed a new five-year contract More football, pages 30

Hussain a shining light for England

By Derek Pringle ın St John's, Antigua

England 127 & 275-3 West Indies 500-7 dec

A FIGHTING hundred from Nasser Hussain and a gritty halfcentury by Graham Thorpe went a long way towards helping England save this final Test match after heavy showers had washed out the morning session of play yesterday.

century and his first against the West Indies. After three frustrating tours here - he broke his in to bowl with a shiny red new hand in the one here nine years ago, and did not get picked for momeni was cleariv an emo ings of anger as well as joy when he threaded Carl Hooper backward of cover for the important

Although it was a rearguard action, the partnership had echoes of the one between these two at Edgheston last year. On that occasion, Hussain scored a double hundred an Thorpe a single as Australia were put to the sword. Yesterday was more subdued, but no less worthy of merit, despite it being an exercise in damage limitation rather than a harbinger

Once the rain had been

intensive style peculiar to this ground, a prompt start was made after lunch. With the new ball due one over after the start, Lara, somewhat surprisingly, kept faith with his two

A curious tactic, given that both Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose had spent the morning with their feet up, it was not entirely out of character. In fact, throughout this whole series Lara has rarely opted for the obvious when more obtuse options are available.

He did not persist with his It was Hussain's sixth Test folly for long, however, and four overs later the gangling figure of Ambrose was back running ball in his band.

Following a loosener, which the Test matches last time - the Hussain cut gleefully for four, Ambrose. tional one, and there were feel- other end by Franklyn Rose, soon warmed to his task to have both batsmen playing and missing. This was the first wave Hussain and Thorne had to withstand if England were to have a chance of saving the game, a cause helped earlier by the rain, which washed out the morning's play.

> They almost did not survive it, an outside edge from Thorpe narrowly failing to carry to Lara at first slip. But it was not all grim survival and there were runs too, as Hussain cut Rose and Ambrose, the latter high over the slips, to the boundary.



tactics. With no grass or damp to exploit, it was back to the intimidatory tactics of old as a variety of rib ticklers and throat balls kept the batsmen on their tire.

With an attacking field, and a pitch now close to comatose. it also proved costly and the boundary count increased dramatically, as it had when the spinners bowled in tandem the previous evening.

West Indies domination has long relied on out-and-out pace bowling. But if in the early days subtlety and the ability to move the ball were in short sup-

Andy Roberts, Michael Holding and Malcolm Marshall once their youthful limbs began to

The same thing has happened with Ambrose and Walsh. Now in their fast bowling dotage, the pair have be-

St John's scoreboard

Final day, West Indies won Juss
ENGLAND - First Innings 127 (D Ram-narine 4-29).
WEST ROBES - First Innings 500 for 7 dec.
CL Manager 1784 D. C. E. Lambert 174 S. &

(Stewart). Bowling: Walch 25-6-71-0 (nt/2) (4-0-12-0, 1-0-3-0, 3-1-6-0, 5-1-17-0, 5-3-4-0, 7-1-30-0);

By Henry Biofeid

A WET morning gave one the

chance to reflect on a series

which began at Sabina Park two

months ago amid such high

hopes for England. It has been

a story of bad pitches, wasted

opportunities, indifferent um-

piring, and the loss of two most

important tosses which dictat-

ed the likely outcome of the

In the final analysis, England

were not good enough to beat

the West Indies. They had win-

ning chances in three Tests but

could only convert one into vic-

tory. Too often, when it mat-

tered, England played untidy

and ill-disciplined cricket and,

significantly, they did not have

a Curtly Ambrose or a Court-

fourth and sixth Tests.

VIEST BIDIES - From trainings 900 (C. L. Hooper 105th, C. B. Lambert Wallace 92, B. C. Lara 89). ENGLARD - Sectoral frankings (Overright: 173 for 3) **M. A. Abharton Boy b Ambross ... 60 min, 40 balls, 1 four A.J. Stewart o Wallace b Hooper ... 173 min, 132 balls, 8 fours M. A. Butcher of Marriary b Ambrose 8 min, 6 balls h Hussain not out

how" grew up with the likes of come persistent line and length merchants, swapping exploration of the jugular for that of the channel of uncertainty. With over 700 Test victims between them, it is a bit like Richard Branson downsizing to run the corner shop, except that line and length still

Anthrose 19-5-65-2 (nb.7) (9-2-20-0, 4-1-1-2, 1-0-8-0, 8-2-20-0; Rose 11-2-38-0 (nb.9 [2-0-6-0, 3-1-5-0, 2-1-10, 4-0-8-0]; Rasmarine 32-10-53-0 (nb.9) (nb.9), 1-0-1-0, 1-0-2-0, 1-0-1-0, 1-0-2-0, 1-0-1-0, 1-0-2-0, 1-0-1-0, 1-0-2-0, 1-0-1-0, 1-0-2-0, 1-0-1-0, 1-0-2-0, 1-0-1-0, 1-0-2

38-1 (15-5-25-1, 8-7-4-0, 4-1-8-0, Progress: Fourth day: Innet: 39-0 (Atherior 3), Sewart 23 11 overs 50: 72 min, 322 overs. Rain stopped play 120-124 pm 56-2 (Sawart 35 f. Lussain 5 182 overs 100: 142 min, 322 overs Tee: 22-2 (Sawart 78 Harsin 28) 35 overs 100: 140 min, 32-2 overs Tee: 22-2 (Sawart 78 Harsin 28) 35 overs 100: 140 min, 32-2 overs Close: 173-3 (Hussain 54, Thorpe 18) 79 overs. Fifth day: Rain delayed start until 1245 pm, New bell talven after 25 overs 250: 394 min, 1024 overs.

1024 Overs.
Seneatrie SC: 18 min, 89 bals, 4 fours. Husselo's 50: 165 rein, 167 bals, 6 fours. 100: 341 min, 269 bals, 14 fours. Thorpe's Sc: 234 min, 165 bals, 3 fours.
Unpires: S A Buckror and C J Mitchley.
TY Replay Unpire: P Whyte.
Match Referee: B N Jarmen.

A series when wasted chances

pays dividends when pursued by giants like Walsh and It is a role, that of the two,

Ambrose has settled into better. Mind you, they can still turn up the heat when needed, and at least three of Ambrose's spells in Guyana were, according to some of the England batsmen who faced them, as fast as recent offerings from Allan Donald and Wagar Younis, Not bad for a 34-year old, written off after the disaster in Pakistan be-

fore Christmas. However, the spicy pitches in Trinidad, as well as the bigseamed halls used throughout the series, also helped. Ambrose, in particular, is now a taller, faster version of Richard Hadlee, and he lands the ball on the seam virtually six out of six.

When that is the norm rather than the exception which it is not always when

of Mark Ramprakash as an

England player. That splendid

back-foot drive off Nixon

McLean which took him to his

century in Bridgetown, enabled

him to get over the last psy-

chological hurdle he had to

jump and is my abiding mem-

That hundred could hardly

have come at a better time for

England. Mike Atherton's po-

sition must now be in jeopardy

and Ramprakash has emerged

and has become a serious can-

didate for the job of the next

about this series would be com-

plete without a rousing cheer for

the wholehearted and magnif-

icent efforts of Angus Fraser.

His 20 wickets in the two Port

of Spain Tests deserved to give

England a 2-0 lead. Without

Fraser, England would never

No gut reaction thoughts

long-term England captain.

at precisely the right moment

ory of this series.

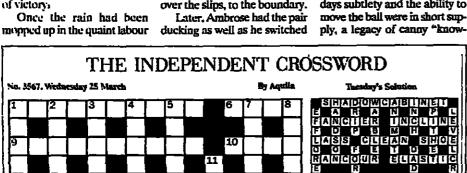
the two surfaces at the Queen's Park Oval helped Ambrose's went from strength to strength. new style, it also renewed his As the leading wicket-taker on confidence. That is a factor not to be underestimated, even in seemingly unflappable asvictims alone. sassins like Ambrose. In the end, the two Tests

Walsh bowls - only the deadest

pitches remain unexploited.

pitches in Trinidad, so helpful to Fraser as well, proved something But if the movement offered by of a Trojan horse. While Fraser ran out of petrol, Ambrose either side, his contribution cannot simply be measured in

Lara passes his first Test, and Henry Blofeld, page 28



ACROSS Quilter's works often turned down? (10) Sunday. Day in Germany for men only (4) Despondent, having run 25 Backward company, out of fuel? (10)

counterfeit (4) 12 One from Darwin rating a cabin, perhaps 15 The bill on the way, performing this func-

10 A sovereign in iron is

iion? (5**-4**) 17 Hearing test (5) 18 Meal has no starter. here at The Bull (5) 19 Patience and Anne crude in exchange (9) 20 One can derive no ben- 5 efft from such treatment (5-7) Central character of audiotapes (4)

mostly in the news at church event (10) 26 Limits of ambitions (4) 27 Panel-bearing family providing aid for climbers (10)

DOWN Active states in past (4) Sprinkle weed (4) Bounty from north, happily distributed (12)

Striking effect of city

area, almost behind (5)

Did boy see trouble.

having rebelled? (9) Long-standing practices of Customs, say (10) Environmentalist hastens, seeing these pests 11 Two sprinters come to grief on the slopes here? (6,6)

13 May take well over the hour (10) 14 Mark kept informed, having the way indicated (10) 16 Not just Celia Hunt coming out? (9) To stimulate, trick is to

take oxygen (5) Ruin a French party (4)

Bill on the bench (4)

ney Walsh There was not enough attention to detail. The inconsistency of Dean Headley and Andrew Caddick with the new ball was frightening, there were times when the side was not focused sharply enough on what

put paid to the highest of hopes they had to do and too many im- one glorious gain from the tour

portant catches were dropped. and that was the establishment They should have won the second Test in spite of some poor unipiring, but they bowled and fielded so badly just when it seemed they must win. If England had left Port of Spain 2-0 up it would have been the West Indies who would have been left to play catch-up cricket.

They could not have done anything about losing the toss in Georgetown. The rain on the last day in Bridgetown was beyoud their control, too, but by then the inability to bowl properly at Philo Wallis and Clayton Lambert cost them dear and gave the West Indies an outside

The toss was again crucial in Antigua where the groundsman had made a bad mistake by watering the newly relaid pitch the day before the match. He was afraid it would not hold together, but by doing this he gave the side which bowled first a decisive advantage.

have had a sniff of one, let alone But for England there was three victories. DPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Loadon E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.



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